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EARL RUSSELL'S PREFACE.

THE republication of Earl Russell's "English Government and Constitution," with its elaborate preface, one hundred pages long, may, in the absence of more important occurrences, be almost looked upon as an event. We do not think a political man ought to write his memoirs until he has finally retired from political life. A statesman still in active service is not likely, however great his experience, to take broad or even

fair views of the events taking place around him. He is sure to write "with a purpose"—as used to be said ten or twelve years ago—with the immediate purpose of setting himself right with the public, and, in the case of an English statesman, with a special view to Parliamentary votes. Thus Earl Russell, when he speaks of the first Reform Bill, is trustworthy enough; for here, although he is dealing with a pet subject, he is at the same time treating of what is now history.

Nor does he indulge in any special pleading on the subject of the corn laws and their repeal. But when he comes to the foreign policy of the Government, and communicates to us his own particular views as to the manner in which the recent negotiations on behalf of Poland and Denmark were conducted, we feel that we are listening to a man who is speaking in self-defence, and who will resort to any argument for the sake of clearing himself from the grave accusations made against



"A LESSON IN FAITH."—(FROM A PICTURE BY G. E. HICKS, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

him. With regard to these two countries, Earl Russell stands much in the position of an advocate charged with having betrayed his clients—not wilfully, of course, or by any means treacherously, but from want of foresight, want of decision, and general want of tact.

Everyone has heard of the advocate who, finding the facts of a case were all against him, could think of nothing better to do than to abuse the attorney on the other side. Earl Russell, instead of confining himself to this time-honoured course, actually abuses the unfortunate persons whose defence he had undertaken. If England did not go to war on behalf of Poland (which no one but Mr. Horsman, in the House of Commons, and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, in the House of Lords, thought she ought to do), it was the fault of the Poles, because they were not willing to be bound by the Treaty of Vienna. If England did not take up arms for the sake of Denmark (a course which scarcely anyone except Lord Robert Cecil advocated), the Danes have only to thank themselves and their perverseness in not attending to the advice given to them by Lord Russell more than a year before the Germans invaded their country. Our opinion on the matter is that Lord Russell abstained from declaring war in both cases from very different reasons to those which he now assigns; and it seems to us that his policy was, in both cases, faulty and almost criminal, because he led those whom he had taken under his protection to believe that he was in earnest; whereas, in fact, he was only making sham demonstrations on their behalf. The "interests and honour of England" (Earl Russell's own phrase) did not require us to fight either for Poland or for Denmark; but our "interests and honour" certainly demanded that the British Government should not place itself in an unworthy and ridiculous position by holding out false hopes to nations in distress and abandoning them when it had become dangerous to support them any longer. If the causes of those nations, as Earl Russell is not ashamed to say now, were in themselves bad, that was an additional reason for not taking up the cudgels on their behalf at all. For the cudgels were taken up, though they were put down again as soon as Earl Russell discovered that his opponents were not afraid.

Earl Russell's general remarks on the subject of intervention and non-intervention are very opportune. He perceives, as everyone who reads the newspapers and who knows anything about the subject must do, that the words are constantly misapplied. The principle of non-intervention as enunciated by Canning signified the non-interference of foreign Powers between subjects and their rulers. The Holy Alliance had proclaimed the necessity of tolerating no internal changes in the Constitution of a country unless such changes were introduced by authority and from above. To this absolutist doctrine the English Minister opposed his principle of non-intervention; but no statesman has ever dreamt of laying it down as a rule that one country must not, under any circumstances, interfere in a war between two other countries. England acted upon the principle of non-intervention when she at once recognised the French Republic of 1848, and again when she recognised the French Empire; but if France proposed to invade Belgium and to establish herself at Antwerp, then we might or might not interfere; but our right to do so would in no way be affected by "the principle of non-intervention," which otherwise would mean the principle of absolute inactivity, except in the very face of an invasion.

Earl Russell of course maintains, what is now universally admitted by English politicians, that every country has a right to choose its own form of government, provided always that by doing so it does not render itself "a nuisance to its neighbours." This exception is doubtless a necessary one; but it is easy to see how it might be abused. Thus it would always be, more or less, a "nuisance" to a despotic State to have a perfectly free State established just on the other side of its frontiers.

Oddly enough, as it at first appears, a determination to enforce the observance of the non-intervention principle—which we admire so much in the abstract—would often lead us into wars. Russia violated the non-intervention principle when she assisted the Austrians against their revolted Hungarian subjects; and, if we had been consistent observers of our own doctrine, we should not have allowed her to do so. England, however, would not have violated the principle in question if she had interfered by force of arms in the war between Denmark and Germany; for in this case we should have been resisting an unjust invasion of an independent State, and fighting for the observance of a treaty which England had signed.

No foreign policy, however, is based upon pure "principle." Interests and expediency are the chief things considered; and the interests looked after by Earl Russell are not always of the highest kind, while his notion even of expediency is of the very narrowest description.

"A LESSON IN FAITH."

THE exhibition at the British Institution this season displays a large number of that class of pictures upon the merits of which we have often spoken in these columns—pictures, that is to say, whose subjects are chosen from episodes in domestic life, and which tell a common story in a manner that exercises a softening and welcome influence upon all classes of spectators. Amongst many artists who have painted with this object there are few who are so successful as Mr. G. E. Hicks in his picture of "A Lesson in Faith," which we engrave in our present Number.

The whole story is told with a force and vigour which is at once appreciated even by the least learned in the technicalities of art; and, underlying the domestic incident, there is the suggestion of a higher and nobler lesson, or rather a Divine application of the same lesson, which gives a still more serious interest to the subject.

That sturdy, strong, reliable boatman, of the Peggotty stamp, standing there in his tarry trousers; his boots thrown off to give

him the better opportunity for a game of romps; what a haven of safety do the little ones find in his sinewy arms—what a sense of security as they look into his weather-beaten face, or bury their chubby hands in the cluster of his briny hair! No wonder that the mother looks up sometimes a little anxiously to see that they are not hurt by their rough playmate, but even she has scarcely learnt the wonderful capacity for gentleness which belongs to those who go down to the sea. In the little trial of faith and confidence to which he has put his darling boy just now, he himself has some doubts. Does the child love him well enough to believe him when he holds out his arms? Does he know that he can save him from falling if he but leaves all to him and trusts his word? It takes a minute to convince the little fellow—not of his father's love, but of his own courage and his own belief. Does the sailor, as he stands there waiting, remember any of those stormy nights at sea, when he himself had to choose between miserable cowardice and the courage which comes by faith? It may be, that as he keeps his loving eyes on the little one, and cheers him by his voice to set his teeth together, clench his tiny hands, and make the leap, he is learning a lesson of faith too. A lesson which he may remember and act upon in childlike confidence, even when the fountains of the great deep seem to be broken up and men have begun to doubt whether there is any help nigh.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Extensive reductions are to be made in the number of military actually under arms in the course of the present year. This is to be accomplished by increasing the reserve to 400,000. A great saving will thus be effected, as these men receive pay only for the two months during which they are out for training. The debate on the Address is to come on March 15, when the Opposition are expected to turn their whole strength and attention to the discussion of home reforms, leaving foreign affairs in abeyance. The estimates of the ordinary Budget for 1866 show a surplus of receipts over expenditure amounting to upwards of half a million francs.

The "Yellow Book," as the annual volume of French despatches is called, has been presented to the Corps Législatif. It contains despatches upon the affairs of Italy, of Greece, of Roumania, Syria, Schleswig-Holstein, and other countries. Among the latest of its contents is the despatch of M. Drouyn de Lhuys to Rome, complaining of the conduct of the Papal Nuncio. This despatch is short and stern. It concludes with the expression of a hope that the Court of Rome will not permit the renewal of such errors, which, M. Drouyn de Lhuys declares, "the Emperor's Government is determined not to tolerate."

SPAIN.

A bill has been submitted to the Cortes, at the request of Queen Isabella, the purport of which is to sell, for the benefit of the nation, the vast property forming the Royal patrimony, with the exception of the Royal residences and the estates entailed upon the Crown. Seventy-five per cent of the proceeds will go to the public treasury and 25 per cent to the Royal treasury. The bill was received with immense enthusiasm, and the Chamber drew up an address expressive of gratitude to the Queen, which they presented in person to her Majesty.

The Minister for the Colonies has intimated to the Chambers that he intends to bring forward bills for the rigorous suppression of the slave trade and for economical reforms in the Administration.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Budget for 1866 was submitted to the Vienna Lower House on Saturday last. It shows an improving financial condition. The deficit for 1866 is described as unimportant; and the Minister of Finance predicted that in 1867 the deficit will disappear altogether. The military estimates for 1866 show a reduction of about 11,000.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

WAR NEWS.

We have intelligence from New York to the 11th inst.

Fighting had again been resumed between the armies of Grant and Lee. On the morning of Sunday, the 5th, the 5th Corps, preceded by Gregg's cavalry, moved towards Reams Station, encountering cavalry on the road, who retreated before the Federal advance. At noon they reached Rowanty Creek, over which they constructed a bridge. The 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry were then sent out to make connection with the 2nd Corps, two divisions of which had gone out on the Vaughan-road, as far as Hatcher's Run, to demonstrate in that direction. On reaching the Run, the brigade of the 2nd Corps charged and took the line of rifle-pits on the west side, with but slight loss. They advanced across the Run, driving the Confederate pickets before them. Here the Federals erected a strong line of breastworks, making their position perfectly secure, and the connection between both corps was afterwards formed. The second division of the 2nd Corps, before reaching Hatcher's Run, turned to the right, and, advancing in a north westerly direction, found the enemy in a strong position in the vicinity. The Federals having thrown up a line of breastworks, the Confederates made several charges and attempted to break through them, but were repulsed. The Federals captured a large commissariat train. Their loss was about 100 men. At noon, on Monday, the 6th, Grant's left again advanced, but was shortly afterwards attacked by the Confederates in force and driven back in confusion to its intrenchments on Hatcher's Run. The loss was upwards of 1500, making, with their losses on the preceding day, 1680 men. On Tuesday, the 7th, the Federals occupied the ground lost on the previous day. Grant's permanent lines now extend from what was formerly the extreme left at Fort Cummings, or Squirrel Level Road, to across Hatcher's Run, at Armstrong Mills.

Lee's report states that on Sunday the enemy moved a strong force to Hatcher's Run. Part of his infantry crossed, and proceeded to Cattab Creek, and the cavalry to Dinwiddie Courthouse, where they encountered the Confederate cavalry and retired. In the afternoon Hall's and Gordon's troops demonstrated against the enemy on the left of Hatcher's Run, near Armstrong Mills; but, finding him intrenched, withdrew during the night. The force which advanced beyond the creek was reported recrossing. On Monday morning Pegram's division moved to the right bank of the creek to reconnoitre, when it was vigorously attacked. The battle was obstinately contested for several hours, but Pegram being killed and Colonel Hoffman wounded, some confusion occurred, and the division was pressed back to its original position. Van's division was ordered to support Pegram's, and charged the enemy, forcing him back, but was in turn compelled to retire. Mahoney's division then arrived, and drove the enemy rapidly to his defences at Hatcher's Run. The Confederate loss was small.

Sheridan's cavalry had defeated a detachment of Confederate cavalry at Moorfield, Virginia, capturing twenty prisoners, including Major Harry Gilmer.

Sherman was moving in two columns, demonstrating against Charleston and Branchville. His left wing, which he moved up the Savannah River fifty miles, had struck off in a northerly direction. No direct news, however, had been received from him for some days. A report prevailed at Richmond that he had effected a lodgment on the railroad between Branchville and Augusta. The only fact confirmatory of this report was that the telegraphic communication with Augusta was interrupted. There were also rumours that Branchville had been flanked and captured, growing out of the receipt of news by the War Department that the Confederate advance-guard, under Maclaw, had fallen back within thirty miles of Branchville, through fear of being enveloped by the enemy's advance. Augusta papers report two corps of Sherman's army to be on the Georgia side of the Savannah River. Beauregard had assumed the command at Augusta, where he made a speech declaring that he would fight to the bitter end, and if he failed he would depart to a foreign country.

Thomas, with a large force of cavalry and mounted infantry, from Eastport, Mississippi, was asserted to be marching upon the rear of Mobile, which, it was rumoured, had been evacuated. Candy's force at Pascagoula co-operates.

Memphis despatches state that a large Confederate force, under General Robbins, was at Mound City, Arkansas, preparing to cross the Mississippi into Tennessee.

President Davis had appointed Lee Commander-in-Chief, and the Senate had confirmed the appointment. Lee had appealed to the Southern people for carbines, pistols, revolvers, and saddles for the equipment of an additional cavalry force. General Breckinridge was installed Confederate Minister of War on the 7th inst.

The *New York World* asserts that the South is about to change its military policy, evacuate Richmond, and abandon Charleston. Lee will then withdraw the Confederate forces from the coast, and, discarding the defensive positions on the coast, will continue the contest in the open field, whether attacked or prosecuting an aggressive campaign.

A general and immediate exchange of prisoners, including negroes, had been agreed upon by General Grant and the Confederate authorities.

GENERAL NEWS.

President Davis and the Southern commissioners had published their account of the proceedings and the result of the conference in Hampton Roads. Mr. Lincoln, in answer to a request from Congress, had done the same. The two accounts agree that the South would not yield on the question of independence, and that Mr. Lincoln would negotiate on no other terms than submission to the Union and concurrence in the constitutional abolition of slavery.

An immense mass meeting had been held at Richmond, at the call of the Governor of Virginia, for the people to testify their sense of the result of the peace conference. Resolutions were passed, "spurning, with the indignation due to so gross an insult, the terms on which Mr. Lincoln proffered peace to the people of the Confederate States; that the circumstances under which that proffer was made add to the outrage, and stamp it as a designed and premeditated indignity to the people of the South; that the profoundest gratitude is due to the soldiers who for four years have maintained our liberties, and we will sustain them by every means and resource at our command in the face of the world; that, invoking God's aid, we renew our resolution to pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour to maintain our liberties and independence." President Davis made a speech declaring that if all heartily and unanimously answered the demands of the present exigency, then he could say that the South stood upon the verge of success, which would teach the insolent enemy who had treated the Southern propositions with contumely that in that conference, in which he had so plumed himself with arrogance, he was, indeed, talking to his masters. If any man supposed he (Davis) could, under any circumstances, be an agent for the reconstruction of the Union, he mistook every element of his nature. With the Confederacy he would live or die. If half the absentees returned to Lee's army, Grant would be taught a lesson such as he had never received, even on the road from the Rapidan. Beauregard had another army on Sherman's path, and it might soon be shown that Sherman's march through Georgia would be his last.

After the counting of the votes for the presidential election in the House of Representatives, Lincoln and Johnson were declared elected by twenty-two States against three for McClellan and Pendleton.

The Delaware Legislature had refused to ratify the Constitutional abolition of slavery. The Governor of Kentucky had sent a message to the Legislature recommending the ratification of the constitutional amendment, but thought the Government should pay Kentucky \$4,000,000, the value of the slaves in that State.

Mr. Fernando Wood's resolution declaring it to be the duty of the President to maintain the Union had passed the House of Representatives.

The Confederate Senate had rejected by a large majority a proposition to put 200,000 negroes in the army.

President Lincoln had signed the joint resolution to give England notice of the termination of the Treaty of 1817 regulating the naval force on the lakes. The resolution is preceded by a declaration that peace on the frontier is endangered by hostile expeditions, which the naval forces of the two countries may be insufficient to prevent.

A terrible petroleum fire had occurred in Philadelphia. About 2000 barrels of the oil were in a blaze at the same moment, some forty-seven buildings were destroyed, and several lives were lost, in some cases the victims being literally roasted alive.

The Canadian authorities had decided to surrender the Vermont raiders. Mr. Seward had dispatched United States Marshal Murray to Montreal to take them in charge.

The Spanish and Peruvian Legations had received information of the definite settlement of the dispute between Peru and Spain.

THE ARMY AND NAVY ESTIMATES.

THE ARMY.

THE Army Estimates for the year 1865-6, which were issued on Monday, set forth a prospective diminution of charge for the coming year of £874,639. Last year the total amount voted was £14,844,088, from which a sum of £1,324,442 for extra receipts being deducted, the expenditure appeared as £13,519,646. This year the sum to be asked for amounts to £14,348,447; while the estimated amount of extra receipts is £1,708,440, reducing the prospective expenditure to £12,640,007. The saving is to be made with the effective services, for which £12,241,647 will be asked, as against £12,737,931 last year. For the non-effective services £2,106,187 were voted last year; this year the sum estimated for this division is £2,106,800—a slight increase, which appears to have resulted from the greater number of reduced and retired officers and out-pensioners who have become chargeable on the lists as well as from a small amount more than last year estimated as rewards for military service; in other categories of this class a saving is set forth—viz., pay of general officers, widows' pensions, &c., pensions to wounded officers, superannuation allowances, and disembodied militia. In the effective services there will be a decrease, for the general staff and regimental pay, of £274,416; commissariat and movement of troops, £113,247; clothing and supplies, £22,458; barrack establishments, £1265; Divine service, £1098; martial law, £14,249; medical establishments, £15,672; enrolled pensioners and army reserve, £3580; manufacturing department, £131; warlike stores, £57,519; military education, £10,383; miscellaneous services, £15,403; and administration of the Army, £10,584; while on the following there will be an increase:—disembodied militia, £2617; yeomanry, £3914; volunteers, £6640; and for superintending establishment and expenditure for works, buildings, and repairs at home and abroad, £60,530. The several sums to be asked for, in both classes, are as follow:—General staff and regimental pay, £5,434,567; commissariat and movement of troops, £1,208,800; clothing establishments, £574,256; barrack establishments, £609,900; Divine service, £44,335; martial law, £26,300; medical establishments, £246,544; disembodied militia, £786,400; yeomanry, £91,000; volunteers, £334,900; enrolled pensioners and army reserve, £46,000; manufacturing department, £292,900; warlike stores, £485,000; superintending establishment of, and expenditure for, works, buildings, repairs, £811,400; military education, £163,500; surveys of the United Kingdom, £88,345; miscellaneous, £107,700; administration of the Army, £212,800; rewards for military service, £26,100; pay for general officers, £74,200; reduced and retired officers, £455,000; widows' pensions, &c., £162,100; wounded officers, £28,200; in-pension, £33,200; out-pension, £1,168,000; superannuation, £131,000; and disembodied militia, £29,000. The general staff, regimental, and military educational establishments will number this year 142,477 men, as against 146,766 last year, a decrease of 4289; while the native Indian troops employed on the British establishment will be reduced from 1582 men last year to 178 men.

THE NAVY.

The Navy Estimates for the financial year 1865-6 were also presented to Parliament on Monday. The total for effective service is £8,658,305, which, added to the charges for non-effective service and the conveyance of troops, makes the grand total for the Navy £10,392,224. The last vote for the current financial year was £10,708,651, and the net decrease is therefore £316,427. The estimated amount of extra receipts and repayments in 1865-6 is £259,319, and this will reduce the total of the vote to be asked for to £10,132,905. With regard to numbers, the number of officers, petty officers, and seamen to be voted for the coming year is 38,000, against 38,500 last year. There are also 7000 boys, and 7000 men in the Coastguard service, against 7500 last year—making the total 52,000, against 53,000. The Marines are in all 17,000—namely, 8000 for service afloat and 9000 for service on shore, being 1000 less than in 1864-5. The civilians for the Coastguard service are 750 against 950—leaving the total force in the fleet and Coastguard service 69,750, against 71,950 last year.

THE GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

THE constitution of that confederacy of sovereign and independent States which now represents the German Empire was effected at the Congress of Vienna, on the 8th of June, 1815, when the members of the Confederacy signed an act which consists of twenty articles. According to this act, the object of the Confederation is "the preservation of the internal and external security of Germany and the independence and inviolability of the various German States." All the members of the *Deutsche Bund* were secured equal rights and privileges by the second article of the convention; but the participation in the general administration is limited. The organ and representative of the Confederation is the Diet of Plenipotentiaries, which is permanent, and assembles at the free city of Frankfurt-on-the-Maine. The executive and administrative government of the Diet is constituted in two forms:—First, as a general assembly, or *plenum*, in which every member of the Confederation has at least one vote and the great Powers have several; and, secondly, the ordinary assembly, or Committee of Confederation, in which seventeen votes are divided between the thirty-four members representing the various Powers, giving one vote to each of the larger States, and the rest to the smaller ones combined. When fundamental laws are to be made or changed; when measures are to be taken that relate to the Federal Act itself; when changes of organic institutions or other arrangements of general interest are to be adopted; when war or peace is to be made, or when a new member is to be admitted, the Diet becomes a *plenum*. In all other cases, the ordinary Assembly, or Committee of Confederation, is competent to act both as legislature and executive. The original Convention of the Vienna treaty included thirty-nine sovereign States or portions of States; but the number is now reduced to thirty-four, over whose deliberations Austria enjoys the permanent right of presiding.

It is now scarcely necessary to inform our readers that the Committee of Confederation has for some time exercised very little political influence, and some attempts have been made by the Emperor of Austria (but opposed by Prussia) to reconstitute the Assembly on a more liberal basis, and in a more representative form. At present, however, nothing of importance has been effected; and, though the combined military force of the Confederate States has been considerably increased, and remains under the nominal command of the Diet, the events of the Danish War have shown how little the dignity of the smaller States is regarded. The confederate German army now consists of about 400,000 infantry and 70,000 cavalry, and 60,000 artillery, divided into ten corps-d'armee and a number of reserve troops. The fortresses of Mayence, Luxembourg, Landau, Rastadt, and Ulm are also under the command of the Diet.

The great majority of the inhabitants of the Confederation belong to the Teutonic race. Only in two States (Austria and Prussia) are natives of other races—nearly all Slavonians. They number 6,860,000 in the Austrian provinces of the Confederation, for the greater part in Bohemia; and 825,000 in Prussia, the whole of them in the county of Posen, a former integral part of the kingdom of Poland.

Of the 45,000,000 inhabitants of Germany, about 26,000,000 are Roman Catholics, and the rest Protestants, with 476,000 Jews. In Austria there are only 360,000 Protestants; and in Bavaria but one third of the inhabitants belong to the Reformed Church. On the other hand, there are no Roman Catholics in the little principality of Schaumburg-Lippe, and but thirty members of the same confession in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. As a rule, the Protestants are more numerous in the northern and the Roman Catholics in the southern portions of the Confederation. Until the last few years, the various States of the Confederation were entirely separated in their commercial policy and arrangements, each having its own line of custom-houses, its own tariff of duties, and, in most cases, its own coins, weights, and measures.

Following the order in which they appear in our Engraving, Wirttemberg is represented by King Charles, son of the late King William I., by the first Queen Pauline, of whom, and of the second marriage of the old King with the Grand Duchess Catherine of Russia, we lately gave some particulars.

Hesse-Darmstadt sends to the Conference the Grand Duke Ludwig III., who was born on the 9th of June, 1806. In 1848 he was appointed co-Regent of Hesse-Darmstadt in consequence of an attempt at insurrection, and succeeded his father, Ludwig II., the same year. The Grand Duke has no issue, but both his brothers, Prince Charles and Prince Alexander, are well represented; the eldest son of the former (Prince Louis of Hesse) having married our Princess Alice. The sister of the Grand Duke, Princess Maria, married the Grand Duke Alexander of Russia, and is now Czarina.

William I., Duke of Brunswick, who is the second son of the late Frederick William and Princess Marie of Baden, was born on the 25th of April, 1806. The brother, Duke Charles, who succeeded his father (under the guardianship of the Prince Regent, afterwards King George IV. of Great Britain), died on the breaking out of political riots, and was declared unfit to govern by a resolution of the German Diet in 1830. As the Ducal house of Brunswick is now on the point of becoming extinct, its only two representatives being unmarried and sexagenarians, this illustrious and ancient state of the Confederation will come under the sovereignty of Hanover in consequence of a family treaty made in the seventeenth century. The Royal family of Great Britain has no claim, since the male line of the house of Brunswick-Lüneburg is not represented in Queen Victoria. But the reigning family of Prussia asserts a title by the terms of ancient treaties. The Duke of Brunswick is one of the wealthiest of German Sovereigns, and it is believed that he has bequeathed his immense private estates to the Emperor of Austria.

The ducal family of Nassau represents the elder branch of the illustrious line which has given kings to the Netherlands, as well as one great Sovereign to England. The younger, or Royal, branch is known as the Nassau-Orange, the elder as Nassau-Walram, after the name of the founder, who lived in the eleventh century. The present Duchy of Nassau is not that originally possessed by the family, but a territory made up at the Congress of Vienna of the fragments of twenty-three independent or semi-independent States.

Frederick I., Grand Duke of Baden, second son of Leopold I. and Princess Sophia of Sweden, was born in September, 1826, and, on the death of his father, in April, 1852, ascended the throne under the title of Regent, his elder brother, Ludwig, receiving only the nominal title, and being unfit to govern through the mental aberration from which he suffered.

The free city of Bremen is governed by a Senate of thirty members under the legislative authority of the General Assembly of citizens, known as the "Burger Convent," which is divided into committees and presided over by members of the College of Aldermen. Two Burgomasters, the first elected for six years and a half and the latter for four years, direct the affairs of the Senate through a Ministry divided into eight departments—viz., Foreign Affairs, Church and Education, Justice, Finance, Police, Medical and Sanitary Administration, Military Affairs, and Commerce and Shipping. All the Ministers are Senators. The State comprises an area of 106 English square miles, divided into the city proper, the rural districts, the township of Vegesack, and the port and city of Bremerhaven. The population is about 100,000.

Gunther II., Prince of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen, the son of Gunther I., succeeded to the throne in consequence of the abdication of his father in 1835. It was on account of the ancient lineage of the house which gave an Emperor to Germany in the fourteenth century that the territory of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen was left undisturbed at the Congress of Vienna, instead of being "mediatized" like some other small States.

Bernhard I., Duke of Saxe-Meiningen, and son of Duke George, of Saxe-Meiningen, and Princess Louise of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, was born in December, 1800, succeeding to the throne as a minor, under the guardianship of his mother, in 1803, and receiving the reins of Government in 1821.

The princely family of Lichtenstein is said to derive its origin, together with the reigning families of Great Britain, Hanover, and Brunswick, from the Lombard Marquis d'Este, who

married Cuniza, a Saxon heiress, at the commencement of the eleventh century. Partly on account of this antiquity of the family, but also because of its immense wealth, the Congress of Vienna, which mediatized territories of much larger extent, left the principality of Lichtenstein a sovereign State, under its hereditary rulers. The Princes of Lichtenstein, however, have not been recognised by the other Royal families of Europe, and there are no blood alliances between this and any other reigning house.

Gunther, Prince of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, born November, 1793, succeeded his father, Louis Frederick, in 1807; and in 1816 was married to Princess Augusta of Anhalt Dessau, after whose death, in 1834, he married Helena von Stolzenberg, adopted daughter of Prince William of Anhalt. Again becoming a widower, in 1860, he married, in the following year, Marie Schulz, a native of Königsberg, and then only twenty-one years of age, at the same time creating her Baroness von Brockenburg. The issue of the second marriage are a son and daughter, bearing the titles of Prince and Princess of Leutenberg; but the succession is doubtful, as the marriage was "morganatic," which, according to the law of Germany, is sufficient to exclude from the throne, although an exception has been made in the case of the Sovereign of Baden.

The Elector of Hesse-Cassel, Frederick William I., was born in August, 1802, and is the son of Elector William II. and Princess Augusta of Prussia. In 1831 he was married to Gertrude Lehmann, the divorced wife of a non-commissioned officer in the Prussian army. She was created Countess of Schaumburg, and afterwards (on the succession of Frederick William to the throne) Princess of Hanau. There are six sons and three daughters who succeed to those titles, but are debarred from the right to the throne.

The reigning family of Waldeck claim descent from Count Wittekind, a Saxon noble who took part in the Crusades. The sovereignty of this little State was preserved by the Congress solely on account of the distinguished services of Field Marshal Prince George of Waldeck in the wars against France.

George V., King of Hanover, is, as our readers are probably aware, the son of the Duke of Cumberland, afterwards King Ernest Augustus, and of Princess Frederika of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. His other titles are Prince of Great Britain and Ireland and Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg. He was born in London, May 27, 1819; in 1837 he proceeded to Germany, where he became blind, after undergoing an operation for cataract. By a patent of King Ernest Augustus of July 3, 1840, it was ordered that he should be assisted in all political affairs by two responsible Ministers attached to his person.

The present Constitution of the State and Free City of Hamburg was published on Sept. 28, 1860, and came into force on Jan. 1, 1861. The Government—*Staatsgewalt*—is intrusted, in common, to two Chambers of Representatives, the Senate and the *Bürgerschaft*, or House of Burgesses. The Senate has the principal executive power, and is composed of eighteen members, half of whom must have studied jurisprudence, while seven of the remaining nine must belong to the class of merchants. The members of the Senate are elected for life by the House of Burgesses, but a senator may retire after six years. A first and second burgomaster, chosen annually by secret ballot, preside over the meetings of the Senate. No member of the Senate is allowed to hold any public office, and no burgomaster can be in office more than two years. The House of Burgesses is composed of 192 members, eighty-four of whom are elected in secret ballot by the votes of all tax-paying citizens. Of the remaining 108 members, forty-eight are chosen by ballot by the owners of house property in the city of the value of £187 over and above the amount for which they are taxed; while the other sixty members are deputed by various guilds, corporations, and courts of justice.

William III., King of the Netherlands, is the representative of the house of Orange Nassau. Through the marriage of Count Engelbrecht with Joan of Polanen, in 1404, the Orange family gained a footing in the Netherlands by the acquisition of the little principality of Breda. The alliance with another heiress, only sister of the childless Prince of Orange and Count of Chalon, brought to the house a rich province in the south of France; and a third matrimonial union, that of Count William II., of Nassau-Orange with a daughter of King Charles I., transferred the crown of Great Britain to the family. Previous to this the members had acquired great influence in the Republic of the Netherlands, and from "stadholders" became sovereigns.

Francis Joseph I., Emperor of Austria and King of Bohemia and Hungary, born August, 1830, is the son of Archduke Francis Charles and of Archduchess Sophia, Princess of Bavaria. After being educated under the care of his mother by Count Henry Bombelles, the descendant of an ancient family of French emigrants, he became Governor of Bohemia in 1848, and was declared of age the same year, and proclaimed Emperor, in consequence of the abdication of his uncle, Ferdinand I., and the renunciation of his father, Francis Charles. Francis I., the father of the still living Ferdinand, was the first sovereign who assumed the title of Emperor of Austria, after having been compelled by Napoleon to renounce the Imperial crown of Germany, which had been for more than five centuries in the family founded by Rudolph of Hapsburg.

The princely family of Reuss traces its descent to the Emperor Henry I. of Germany, surnamed the Fowler, who died in 936. All the heads of the house have been named Henry, whence it became necessary to distinguish them as "the Fat," "the Rich," "the Brave," and so on, until they adopted numbers, it having been settled in a family council that when the figures reached a hundred they should begin again at one. The present Prince of Reuss, Greiz Henry XXII., being a minor under the guardianship of his mother, the family is represented by the younger branch in the person of Henry LXVII., Prince of Reuss-Schleiz.

Of the family and house of William I., King of Prussia, our readers have already heard in these columns. From the time when Count Thassilo of Zollern, one of the generals of Charlemagne, founded the family and the castle of Hohenzollern was built near the Danube, in 980, the race has acquired power and wealth. Frederick III. was elevated to the rank of a Prince of the Holy Roman Empire in 1273, and received the burgraviat of Nuremberg in fief. His great-grandson, Frederick VI., was invested by Sigismund, in 1411, with the province of Brandenburg, and became Elector in 1417. In 1511, the Teutonic Knights, owners of the Baltic territory, elected Margrave Albert, a younger son of the Hohenzollerns, to the rank of Grand Master, and he soon elected himself to the title of Hereditary Prince. The extinction of his line brought the province to the electors of Brandenburg, whose own territories had been extended by Frederick Wilhelm, the "Great Elector," who, dying in 1688, left a country with a million and a half of inhabitants, a vast treasure, and 38,000 well-drilled troops to his son, Frederick III., who first assumed the kingly crown at Königsberg, on Jan. 18, 1701.

The Free City and State of Lübeck is governed by a Constitution settled in December, 1851, and similar to that of Hamburg. The High Court of Appeal for the four free cities of Germany—remnants of the old Hanseatic League—is established at Lübeck, and is composed of a president, nominated by the Houses of Senators of the four cities, and six councillors chosen by the four Houses of Burgesses—the first four by each city in rotation, the fifth alternately by Frankfurt and Bremen, and the sixth twice by Hamburg and once by Lübeck.

Of the Royal house of Bavaria we had occasion to give some particulars in noticing the death of the late King Maximilian II., in March, last year, and the accession of the present King, Ludwig II. Peter I., Grand Duke of Oldenburg, claims to be descended from Wittekind, the celebrated leader of the heathen Saxons against Charlemagne; and this ancient house of Oldenburg has given Sovereigns to Denmark, Scandinavia, and Russia, since Count Christian VIII. was of this family, and became King of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway in the fifteenth century.

The Electorate of Saxony was elevated to a Kingdom by the will of Napoleon, Dec. 20, 1806; but the attachment of the first King, Frederick Augustus, to the French Emperor cost him nearly half his territory, which was given to Prussia at the Congress of Vienna.

The family of the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar stands at the head of the princely line of Saxony, which includes Saxe-Meiningen, Saxe-Altenburg, and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha; while the Albertine, or younger, line is represented by the Kings of Saxony.

The present Constitution of Frankfurt-on-the-Maine was proclaimed by the Constituent Assembly of the Free City in December, 1854, and accepted by general vote of the citizens early in the following year. The government of the Commonwealth is similar to that of Lübeck.

The reigning house of Lippe is descended from a Count of the same name, who, in the sixteenth century, acquired some small possessions in Westphalia; and it was not till 1807 that the Counts of Lippe (Schaumburg and Detmold) were elevated to the rank of Princes, through serving the cause of Napoleon in the Rheinbund. They would have been reduced again at the Congress of Vienna but for the protection of Prince Metternich, who preferred having two more crowned heads in Europe to giving their territories to Prussia.

The Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, with a decreasing population of less than 100,000, is perhaps the smallest of the Confederate States. The present Grand Duke Frederick William I. is, however, one of the wealthiest German Sovereigns, about one half of his dominions being his own private property.

The reigning family of Mecklenburg-Schwerin is the only one in Europe of Slavonic origin, and claims to be the oldest sovereign house in the Western World. In their full title, the Grand Dukes style themselves Princes of the Vandals, and trace their descent to Genserich, who ravaged Spain and Portugal in the fifth century, and, going over to Africa, took Carthage in 439.

The Dukes of Anhalt trace their origin to Bernard, son of Albert the Bear, Margrave of Brandenburg, who died in 1211. The family, which split into various branches, was reduced to the present line (Anhalt-Dessau) in 1863.

Ernest II., Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and composer of numerous musical pieces, amongst which the operas "Zaire," "Casilda," and "Santa Chiara" are best known, is the son of the late Duke Ernest I., and of Princess Louise of Saxe-Altenburg. In 1826 the real line of Saxe-Gotha became extinct, and it was then that the line of Saxe-Saalfeld exchanged its name for that of Saxe-Gotha. A large fortune was amassed by Duke Ernest I., and the Congress of Vienna gave him the principality of Lichtenberg for his services in the army in 1813. This principality he afterwards sold to the King of Prussia for two million thalers and "other advantages." The late Prince Consort was a brother of the reigning Duke.

DR. LIVINGSTONE'S NEW EXPLORING EXPEDITION.—Dr. Livingstone's proposed expedition to the district between the north of Lake Nyassa and the south of Lake Tanganyika, assumes a substantial form. The Royal Geographical Society have held out the prospect of £500, the Foreign Office are understood to promise a similar sum, and a private friend and admirer of Dr. Livingstone has given anonymously the magnificent sum of £1000. In addition to all this, it appears that Dr. Livingstone's position as Consul to the native races of Eastern Africa, with a salary of £500 a year, remains unmodified, though his duties as Consul at Quilimane have ceased. Adequate funds are therefore in existence for the maintenance of the expedition, conducted, as it is proposed to be, in a simple and economical manner.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE.—The Secretary of State has directed that a considerable addition be made to the Metropolitan Police Force, and in order that efficient men may be obtained the pay has been materially increased. First-class sergeants are now to receive 28s. per week, and second-class, 26s., an increase respectively of 2s. 6d. and 1s. 6d. The pay of the first-class constables is raised to 23s.; second-class, to 22s.; third-class, to 21s.; an increase of 1s. in each class; the fourth class is to receive, as before, 19s.; but as the number of fourth-class constables is much reduced, men who are well-conducted may expect to be advanced to the third-class within twelve months, so as to attain in that time an increase of 2s. per week. This is a great boon conferred upon the force, and is expected to have great effect in retaining good men in the service.

THE DEFENCES OF CANADA.—Colonel Jervois has made his report respecting the defences of Canada. He says that if Montreal and Quebec were placed in a condition for defence, and the river between Montreal and Quebec commanded by iron-plated vessels, a successful resistance could be made to any attempt to subjugate the country, so long as Great Britain had the command of the sea. The defence of Upper Canada is more difficult, but even there points are to be found which, if properly fortified, would offer a most serious, if not decisive, resistance to an enemy—for instance, Kingston, Toronto, and Hamilton. He proposes the fortification of Kingston, and to construct certain permanent works for the defence of Toronto and Hamilton against an attack from the lakes. He states that the Canadian Government concur in the whole of his proposals. The estimated cost of the works at Quebec is £200,000; at Montreal, £143,000, and armaments at £100,000. The works of fortification recommended at Kingston, Toronto, and Hamilton will cost about £500,000, and the armaments for those places about £100,000. He speaks favourably of the volunteer militia. The estimated number of militiamen of all ranks, inclusive of the reserve men, between forty-five and sixty years of age, is 470,000. Colonel Jervois urges several reasons why the Imperial troops in the western districts should not at present be withdrawn. The question now appears to be—whether the British force in Canada shall be withdrawn, in order to avoid the risk of its defeat, or whether the necessary measures shall be taken to enable that force to be of use for the defence of the province. The sum required for the construction of the proposed works and armaments at Montreal and Quebec would only be about one year's expense of the regular force we now maintain in Canada. It is a delusion to suppose that that force can be of any use for the defence of the country without fortifications to compensate for the comparative smallness of its numbers.

THE NEW PROPRIETARY COLLEGE AT MALVERN.

OUR Engraving represents the Malvern Proprietary College, which has just been opened for the reception of students, and is commenced with an original capital of £20,000, to which £15,000 has been added on mortgage. At the annual meeting, recently held, the accounts showed the total receipts to have been £28,962 11s. 6d., and the total expenditure £32,154 18s. 5d., leaving a balance against the company of £3192 6s. 11d. The two masters' houses which have been erected in contiguity to the college by a separate company, are, however, let for £300 a year each, for occupation by the masters and scholars. The first stone of the building, which has been erected from the designs of Mr. Charles F. Hansom, of Clifton, was laid, on the 22nd of June, 1863, by the Bishop of Worcester, who has presented the college with an exhibition of £30 a year to the student who shall pass the best examination in classics; the exhibition to be tenable for the three years during which the student keeps term at Cambridge. The Hon. F. Lygon, M.P., has also given £30 a year for ten years, to be applied in prizes, or to a scholarship, or an exhibition to the University of Oxford.

The college, which contains ample accommodation for 600 boys, with all the necessary provision for a full staff of masters and officers, is situated on a gentle slope at the foot of the Malvern Hills, a little to the south of the village, and commanding extensive views of the Worcestershire valley on the east and of the famous range of hills on the west. The style of the building is Gothic, of the Early Decorated period. The plan is in the form of the letter E, the eastern side being left open in order to secure ample light and ventilation to every part. The principal or western front is 210 ft. in length, while the northern and southern fronts are each 140 ft. The entrance-tower, which occupies the centre of the west front, is 35 ft. by 25 ft., and is surmounted by four octagonal turrets, at the height of 460 ft. This entrance-tower is flanked by a low range of buildings on each side, connecting it with the wings, and occupied by waiting-rooms, secretary's and clerks' offices, masters' rooms, &c. The board-room and library are immediately over the entrance-hall, and above these are the museum and the clock-chamber. The north and south wings are devoted to class-rooms on the ground floor, all entered from spacious cloisters running round the interior of the building. At the four corners of this cloister stone staircases lead to the upper floor, on which is the principal school-room, 97 ft. by 35 ft., and 57 ft. in height, which is connected with the modelling and drawing-room (an apartment 35 ft. square), so that they may form one large hall for exhibition meetings.

The basement extends about half way under the wings, from which access is gained to the lower terrace and playground. On this floor are lavatories, &c., and the apparatus for warming and ventilating the buildings, supplied by Messrs.

Haden and Son, of Trowbridge. The contractors for the building were Messrs. Warburton Brothers, of Manchester; the cost being about £16,500, exclusive of furniture, roads, boundary-walls, &c.

In addition to the above, a residence has been erected for the head master, at a cost of £2500; a porter's lodge, £450; and shortly will be added racquet and five courts and a gymnasium.

The masters' boarding-houses, capable of containing forty boys each, have been erected by an auxiliary company, called the "Malvern College Building Company," on land immediately adjoining the playground.

The Rev. Arthur Faber, M.A., late Fellow of New College, Oxford, has been appointed Head Master by the Bishop of Worcester, to whom the first appointment was deputed.

THE LATE CARDINAL WISEMAN.

NICHOLAS WISEMAN, the distinguished Cardinal whose death we announced in our last week's Number, was the son of the late Mr. James Wiseman, merchant, of Waterford and of Seville, in which latter city the late Cardinal was born on the 2nd of August, 1802. The family of Wiseman is one of considerable antiquity, and they appear to have had lands in the county of Essex since the reign of Edward IV. Soon after the Reformation Sir John Wiseman, who had been one of the Auditors of the Exchequer under Henry VIII., and was knighted for his bravery at the Battle of Spurs, acquired by purchase Much Canfield Park, in that county. His grandson, William, who married into the noble family of Capel, afterwards Earls of Essex, was created a Baronet by King Charles I. in 1628, and a younger brother of the second Baronet was Lord Bishop of Dromore. The title has continued in a direct line of succession down to the present time, and is now represented by Sir William Saltonstall Wiseman, eighth Baronet, who is a Captain in the Royal Navy. From a younger branch of this family the late Cardinal claimed descent. His Eminence's mother, whose maiden name was Strange, and whose family, in spite of large confiscations of their property under Oliver Cromwell, is still seated at Aylward's Town Castle, in the county of Kilkenny, lived to see her son elevated to a Cardinal's hat, and died, full of years, in 1851.

Though born upon Spanish soil, young Nicholas Wiseman, when he was little more than five years old, was sent to England, in January, 1808, and was placed, while still very young, in a boarding school at Waterford. In March, 1810, he was transferred thence to the Roman Catholic College of St. Cuthbert, at Ushaw, near Durham, where he remained until 1818. In that year he obtained leave to quit Ushaw for Rome, where he arrived in December of that year, and became one of the first members of the English College, then recently founded in the Eternal City. In the next year he had the honour of preaching before the then Pope, Pius VII., and, having pursued with diligence the usual course of philosophical and theological studies, he maintained a public disputation on theology, and was created a Doctor in Divinity July 7, 1824, shortly before the completion of his twenty-second year.

In the following spring he received holy orders, and in 1827 was nominated Professor of Oriental Languages in the Roman University, being at that time Vice-Rector of the English College, to the rectorship of which he was promoted in the year 1829. He had already distinguished himself, not merely as a theologian, but also as a scholar, for, in 1827, he composed and printed a



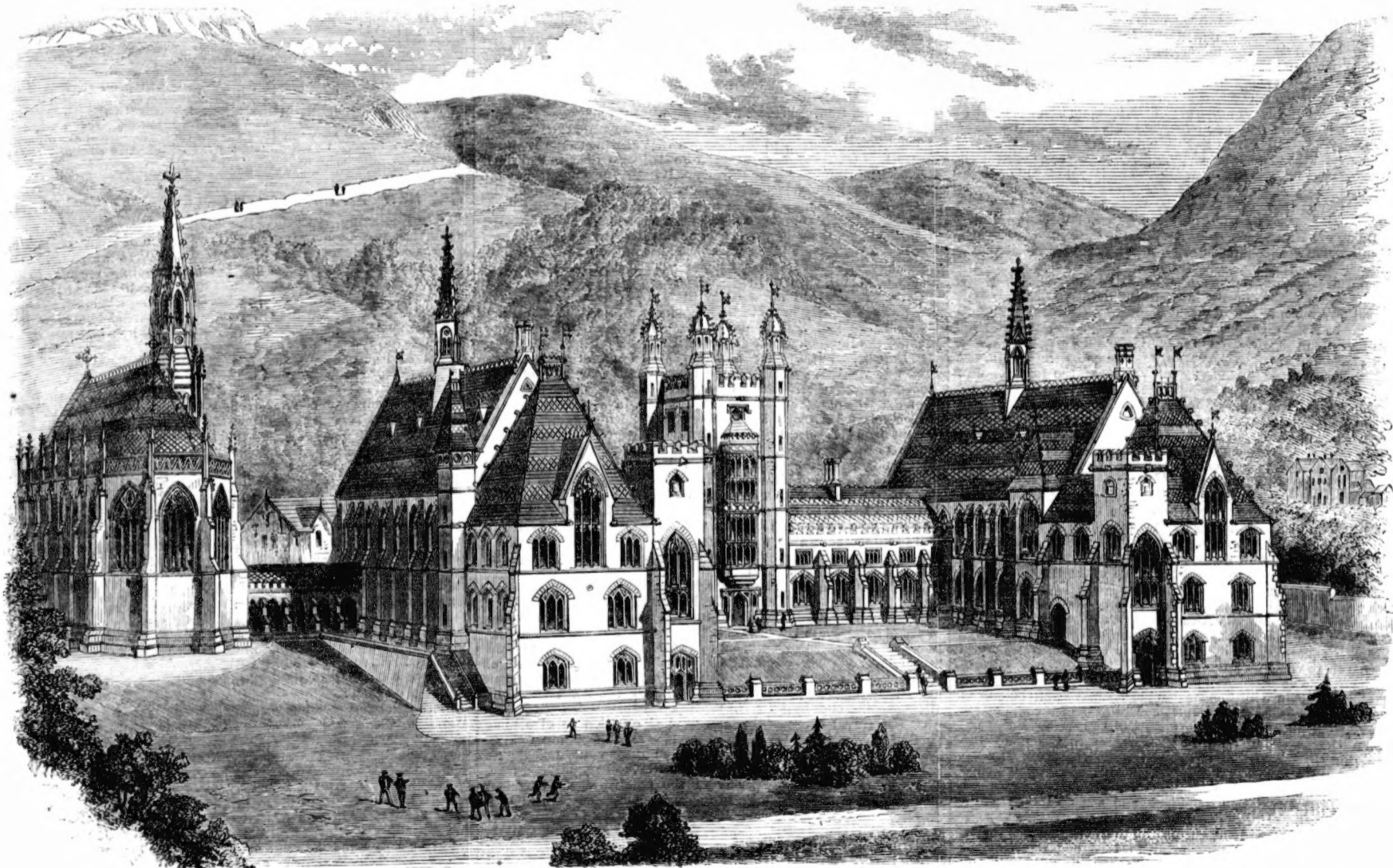
HIS EMINENCE THE LATE CARDINAL WISEMAN.

learned work, entitled "Horæ Syriacæ," chiefly drawn from Oriental manuscripts in the library of the Vatican.

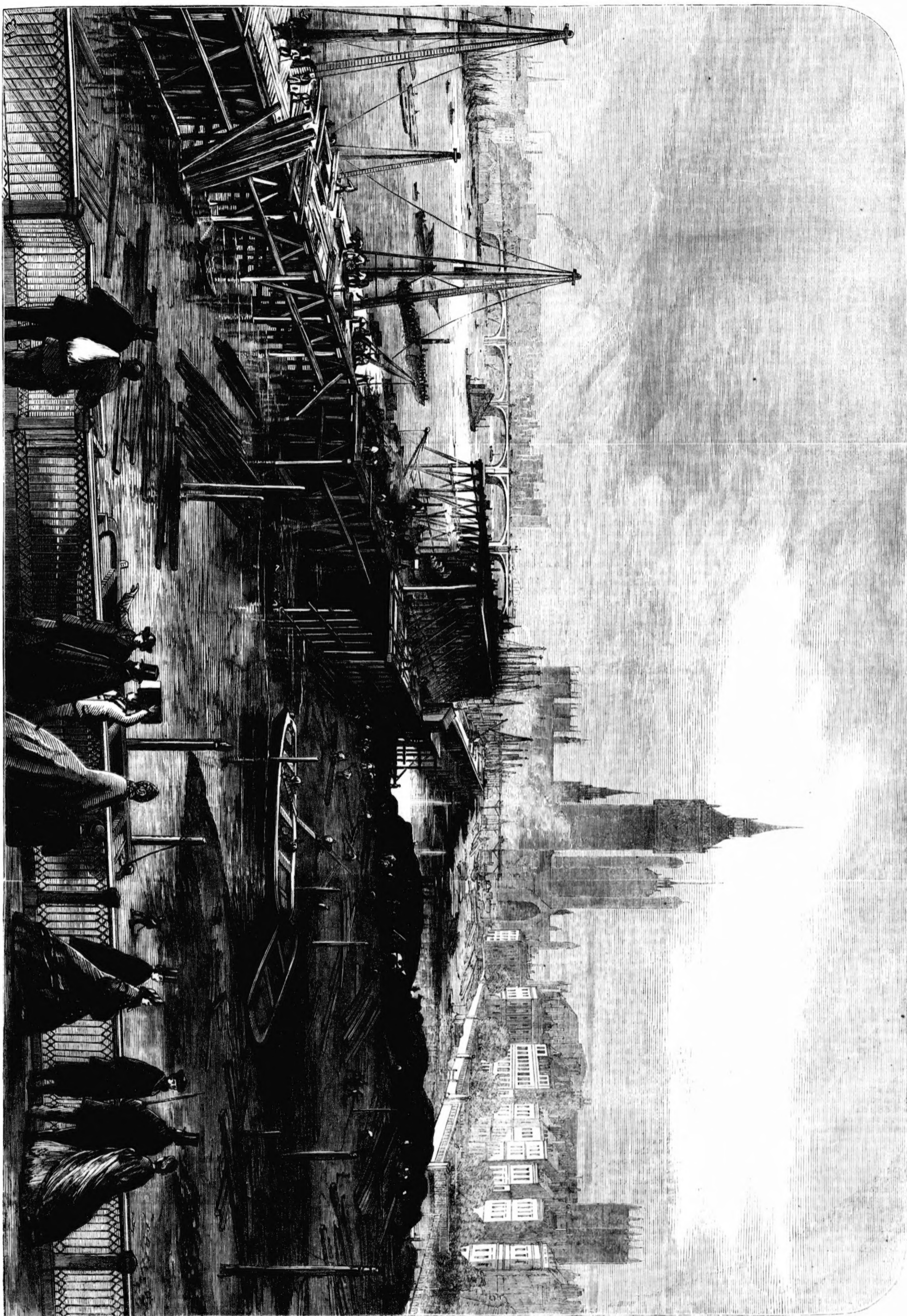
Dr. Wiseman came to England in 1835, and in the winter of that year delivered a series of lectures. He subsequently returned to Rome, and is understood to have been instrumental in inducing Pope Gregory XVI. to increase the number of Vicars Apostolic in England. The number was doubled, and Dr. Wiseman came back as Co-adjutor to Dr. Walsh, of the Midland district. He was also appointed President of St. Mary's College, Oscott. In 1847 he again repaired to Rome on the affairs of the Catholics, and no doubt prepared the way for the subsequent change resolved on in 1848, which was delayed by the troubles which ensued at Rome. The Cardinal's second visit to Rome led to further preferment. He was made Pro Vicar Apostolic of the London district, in place of Dr. Griffiths, deceased. Subsequently he was appointed Coadjutor to Dr. Walsh, translated to London *cum jure et successionem*; and in 1849, on the death of Dr. Walsh, he became Vicar Apostolic of the London district. In August he went again to Rome, "not expecting," as he says, "to return," but "delighted to be commissioned to come back," clothed in new dignity. In a Consistory, held on the 30th of September, Nicholas Wiseman was elected to the dignity of Cardinal, by the title of St. Pudenciana, and was appointed Archbishop of Westminster.

The sensation produced in England by this last appointment, constituting, with the division of England into bishoprics, the "Papal aggression," will be well remembered, and we need not repeat the history of the agitation or the measures taken to resist the aggression. Since then the Cardinal has not come very prominently before the English public in his official capacity. In 1859 he made a kind of triumphal tour in Ireland, and he was received with marked respect in Dublin, Athlone, Ballinasloe, Dundalk, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, and the other towns which he visited. In November he delivered a lecture on his "Impressions of a Tour in Ireland," in Hanover-square Rooms. As an author, a scholar, and a man of letters, Cardinal Wiseman held a very high rank. His lectures on scientific and artistic subjects were always well received by crowded audiences of Protestants as well as Roman Catholics. Amongst his works are "Essays on various Subjects" (3 vols., 1853), "Fabiola" (1855), "The Perception of Natural Beauty by the Ancients" (1856), "The Influence of Words on Thought and Civilisation" (1856), "The Hidden Gem" (a drama written for the jubilee at Ushaw, 1859), "Points of Contact between Science and Art" (1863), "Architecture in London" (1864). Cardinal Wiseman was a most accomplished scholar and an eloquent preacher. He was the seventh English Cardinal—if he can be called English, having been born in Spain, and passed the greater part of his life in Rome—since the Reformation. The other six were Pole, Allen, Howard, York (a son of the Pretender, who was never in England), Weld, and Acton.

The remains of the late Cardinal lay in state at his residence in York-place, Baker-street, for two days last week, and on Monday and Tuesday, when they were removed to St. Mary's Chapel, Moorfields, where, on Thursday morning, high mass was celebrated. The body was then conveyed in procession to St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal-green, where it was interred. The whole of the ceremonies attending the funeral of the Cardinal were of an extremely grand and solemn character.



THE NEW PROPRIETARY COLLEGE AT MALVERN.—(CHARLES F. RANSON, ESQ., ARCHT. ET.)



THE THAMES EMBANKMENT, LOOKING TOWARDS WESTMINSTER PALACE.—SEE PAGE 122.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 249.

A DEAD HOUSE.

"O FOR a blast of that dread horn on Fontarabian echoes borne!"—or some other horn, or something else, to rouse the House of Commons from its lethargy to life and activity, or even to row and riot, though we may have to linger in the gallery into the small hours instead of wending our way home before the shops are shut, as we have hitherto done; for, unless something happen to stir up this lifeless House, to cause these dry bones to live, "Othello's occupation will be gone;" or, to speak without a figure, we shall have to drop our pen and close this long-continued series of articles, for sheer want of something to write about. Ho! Leader of her Majesty's Opposition, why sit you there, so silent, dull, and glum, or wander about the division-lobby like a disconsolate ghost? Hast thou no shaft of criticism in thy quiver, duly polished and pointed, ready to shoot at thine enemies? No thunderbolt of censure? Has all been so well managed by her Majesty's Ministers that in their coat it is impossible to find or pick a hole? And thou, ex-Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has there been no meddling and muddling by the noble Lord at the Foreign Office to expose, if not to correct? And where is Whiteside, the puissant orator? Surely, all cannot have gone on to satisfaction over the water during the vacation. Such a phenomenon would seem to be impossible. And then, as to Admiralty matters, where is Elphinstone? and where is Hay? The gallant Sir James pledged himself to his constituents at Portsmouth that he would not lose a day after Parliament met in bringing the Government to sharp judgment for laying up Captain Cowper Coles' cupola-ship. But Parliament has sat ten days, and yet he is silent. Well, patience, readers, and fear not. The Session is young yet; indeed, in looking over the notice-paper, we already see materials for much talk. Every night bills of more or less importance have been tabled; these bills, which so silently enter and get themselves read a first time, are all materials for debate; and many of them, innocent as they look upon the notice-paper, will have to be stoutly contested; and we shall soon see the House itself again, and have battles to describe, and events to record, and speakers to sketch, as heretofore.

RESURRECTION.

So, here we are! The very thing we foretold has come before the ink is well dried upon our paper. We write these articles day by day—*nulla dies sine linea*—and we had written the above when, on going into the gallery, we found a fine muster of members assembled, and Sir Hugh Cairns upon his legs, bringing the nose of the Irish Secretary to the grindstone for the conduct of the Irish Government in the matter of those discreditable riots at Belfast in autumn last; and, lo! there sat the puissant Whiteside, armed to the teeth evidently, and eager for the fray. He was at Dublin busy in the courts there, but, hearing the sound of war, he had sped away on the wings of steam for the field, and arrived that very day; and there he sat, behind a formidable battery of blue-books and other papers, ready, as soon as Peel should have answered Cairns, to pour his fire upon Peel, according to order of battle duly settled and arranged in council of war. Reader! do you feel any interest in these Irish religious squabbles? Most likely not. You care not whether Protestant beats Catholic or Catholic beats Protestant, but would rather say with Mercutio, "A plague o' both the houses." Would that England were rid of you both if you cannot leave off quarrelling, and let honest men go about their linen-weaving or other business in peace. And we agree with you. What a satire upon modern Christianity is this, we thought, as we looked down from our perch in the gallery, and listened, or tried to listen, to the debate! Two bodies of men, both called Christians, cannot meet in the streets without bloodthirsty thoughts, and longings to seize each other's throats or beat each other's brains out. Christians, indeed! These men are surely instigated by the devil, as our indictments say, and are as unlike Christians as dreadful war is unlike gentle, meek-eyed peace. Not caring, and believing that you do not care, for these quarrels, we will say nothing about the debate, but speak only about the debaters.

A GREAT LAWYER.

Sir Hugh McCalmont Cairns is a great legal swell—stands very high, if not at the head of the Chancery Bar. By birth he is an Irishman; he was born in Ireland, and of Irish parents. But, surely, he must have Saxon blood in his veins, or he would not be so calm, not to say cold, and so able a reasoner. Moreover, he has not a twang of the Irish accent; does not, indeed, betray a single characteristic of the Milesian, either in speech, temperament, personal appearance, or mental development. Nor is this attributable to an English education, for he was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he was first class in classics, and obtained other honours; and, whilst speaking of his honours, we may note that Oxford has thought him worthy of an LL.D.; and Cambridge has followed the example of Oxford, and made him a D.C.L. In short, you see, Sir Hugh is not a rising, but a risen, man. If the Fates be propitious, he will possibly mount to the topmost rung of the ladder of a lawyer's ambition, and sit on the woollenack in the House of Peers as Lord Chancellor of England. Why not? He is clearly the most eminent debater of the lawyer kind that the Conservatives have in the House of Commons. Lord Chelmsford is seventy years old, Sir Fitzroy Kelly is sixty-eight, whereas Sir Hugh is only forty-five. True, Sir Hugh had not good health awhile ago; men whispered ominously that he had consumptive tendencies. He is, however, now, to all appearance, rid of all unpleasant symptoms, and he takes care of his health. He hunts and shoots. Indeed, we have heard that there is no bolder rider after the hounds than Sir Hugh, and that he is as ambitious for the brush as he is for the Great Seal. But we have to speak of him specially here as a speaker in the House of Commons. Well, there as a debater he stands very high; and in a close, hand-to-hand fight he is a formidable foe. But Sir Hugh is no orator. He is merely a dry, argumentative debater; a sharp, clear-headed, acute critic; cold in temperament and formal in manner. To use a military figure, as we have frequently to do in these articles, Sir Hugh is a sapper and miner; to carry an enemy's position by dashing assault does not lie within the scope of his powers. Now and then there may be seen in his speeches a small twinkle of wit and some faint indication of humour. Thus, when Sir Robert Peel murmured across the table the other night that there were not six magistrates sent to Belfast, as Sir Hugh had alleged, Sir Hugh quietly replied, relaxing into a faint smile, "Then there were seven." "Not a very attractive speaker, then, is Sir Hugh?" No, not very. He is one of those whom we are glad to see rise if we are obliged to be in attendance; but, certes, we should never be tempted to put off an engagement nor leave our dinner to hear him. On Friday night week Sir Hugh spoke in his accustomed manner, neither better nor worse than he usually speaks. He had an indictment to bring against the Government in the matter of these Belfast riots, and he opened his case like—like a lawyer, in short, retained for the duty; giving you the impression that if he had been retained on the other side, he would, *mutatis mutandis*, have spoken much the same. Yea; and so he would. And it is the consciousness of this which destroys all interest in these forensic displays; for, though delivered above the bar and not below it, they are still forensic displays. They are uninspired by conviction. On every side the speaker is limited by cold prudence, the boundaries of which he cannot pass. "We also believe, and therefore speak," said a gifted and inspired man. And truly, reader, no man can be really a forcible orator unless he fetches his inspiration from the deepest fountains of his sincere and earnest belief. He may be a clever rhetorician, but not an orator.

THE IRISH SECRETARY.

It was unfortunate, very unfortunate, for Sir Robert Peel on that Friday night that O'Hagan, the late Attorney-General, was not on the Treasury Bench; for this question of the Belfast riots would naturally have brought him on to his legs, and Sir Robert would have been relieved from the onerous and difficult duty of defending the Government. Mr. O'Hagan is a very able man and bold and

excellent speaker, and he would have proved quite a match for the redoubtable Sir Hugh. Mr. O'Hagan is a clever lawyer, and, moreover, a genuine Milesian; speaks with great eloquence and fire; and can simulate earnestness, if he has it not. He is one of those lawyers who can, on all questions, make their hearers, and perhaps themselves, believe that they are in earnest, though in their hearts, below all this passion or seeming passion, they really care nothing about the matter. But on this question Mr. O'Hagan would have been really earnest, for this was a fight between Orangemen and Catholics; and Mr. O'Hagan would have represented the Catholics against Sir Hugh and Mr. Whiteside, who are Orangemen to the backbone. It would have been, then, a real stand-up fight—a regular set-to between orange and green; and we should have had some fun, if nothing else. But O'Hagan is gone; translated from the low, vulgar scenes of forensic and Parliamentary debate up to the calm and transcendental region of the judicial bench; and poor Sir Robert was left alone to meet the hostile and trenchant logic of Sir Hugh and the furious attacks of Whiteside, whom he saw before him ready to charge as soon as opportunity should offer. This was not an enviable position. There were two to one, to begin with. But the two have great natural powers and gifts, and are practised, trained debaters, besides scientific pugilists, as we may say; whilst the other has no science, and, in truth, no very great natural powers for a struggle like this. However, the Right Honourable Baronet did his best, and, as the saying is, the best can do no more. He fought bravely but wildly, and of course laid himself open to punishment; but he took it good-humouredly, as he always does, and eventually not much harm was done. Sir Robert himself is, as we all know, a Protestant; a Protestant with a tinge of Orange, we should say; indeed, this is his sin in the eyes of the Irish Catholics; but, strangely enough, on this occasion he had to fight against Orangemen, and had all the Catholics on his side.

WHITESIDE ILLUSTRATED.

The effect of Mr. Whiteside's oration we will describe by an illustrative story. Many years ago we were in attendance at a provincial Court of Assize. The Judge was Mr. Justice Park, not Baron Park, now Lord Wensleydale, but him whom, to distinguish from Baron Park, lawyers used to call "Green Park." This gentleman was very eccentric, and used often to do and say very funny things. It was a hot day—distressingly hot. Everybody in the court was panting and perspiring, and the pomatum on the lawyers' wigs was all in a fizzle. Now, it happened that an enormously fat man, with a large, round, red face, had got himself jammed into the Under-Sheriff's box, right opposite the Judge; and there he sat, perspiring like a nigger, and ever and anon wiping his moon face and bald head with a capacious bandana. The Judge, always irritable, was more than commonly irritable and fidgety that morning. He ordered the windows to be opened, and then he ordered them to be shut; and when the chimes in a neighbouring church began to play their accustomed tune at mid-day he peremptorily commanded the Sheriff to get them stopped, threatening dire punishment to the sexton if the order were not obeyed. At last, he fixed his eyes upon the fat man, and then he exploded like a shell. "Fat man!" he shouted, throwing down his pen and thrusting out his hands as if he would push the fat man away, "Fat man, get out of the court! get out of the court! for it makes me hot to look at you." This is the story, and now for the application. When Mr. Whiteside is speaking, it makes us hot to look at and to listen to him; and so, when he rose we rose, as we have, in like case, often done before, and wandered away, down into the regions below, to sip our tea and indulge, the while, in a "cool cigar."

TOOLS TO THE MEN THAT CAN USE THEM.

The Irish debate on Friday was only a spasmodic spurt of life: on Monday the House again sunk into its former state of dulness. Mr. Augustus Smith, the Lord of the Scilly Isles, attempted a small reform—or, rather, a small beginning of a great reform. Mr. Charles Gilpin has resigned the office of Secretary to the Poor-Law Board. Mr. Smith moved that this Parliamentary secretariat should be abolished, enunciating in his speech the great principle that all secretaries, Lords of the Treasury, and the like of them, should be cleared out of the house. But Mr. Smith failed, as everybody expected. He had not attempted to master his subject. He knew nothing about the duties of the office which he condemned; and he was easily discomfited—routed, indeed—by the able and accomplished President of the Board, Mr. Villiers. All that the Lord of the Scilly Isles accomplished was another illustration of the old maxim that small men should not meddle with great matters. Some day, possibly, all Government subalterns will be swept out of the house; but the time for this work has not come yet—nor the man to do it.

A METROPOLITAN MEMBER.

On Tuesday Mr. Doulton brought forward his motion for a Committee to preserve the open spaces in and around the metropolis. The motion attracted a large number of members; and Mr. Doulton, as usual, made a very effective speech. It is the custom to sneer at the metropolitan members; but there are not twenty members in the House who can speak more effectively than Mr. Doulton. He always understands, and can make the House understand, what he is talking about, and in a few words. Let the revilers of Mr. Doulton take note of this. "But he makes pots!" True; and the late Sir Robert Peel's father spun cotton. Mr. Alderman Rose rushed down to the house in hot haste to speak upon this motion; and, gracious powers! what a speech he made. But in charity we will drop the curtain, first noting that the Alderman is not a metropolitan member, or the revilers might revile. Him Southampton delighted to honour. Whilst the Alderman was pouring forth his Brummagem philippic against Lord Spencer, his Lordship sat calmly under the gallery and smiled.

ATROPHY.

After this business was over the House almost fainted away; and when Mr. Baines introduced his Reform Bill there were in the lobby two policemen, two doorkeepers, one messenger, and not a soul besides; and in the House about fifty members. On the Treasury bench there was one man—to wit, Mr. Brand, who was waiting to move that the House do adjourn. On the front Opposition seat Mr. Adderley was alone in his glory, and he was packing up his papers to be off. Lord Palmerston was "awa' to the weddin'" feast, given on occasion of the marriage of Lord Sudley to the Hon. Miss Jocelyn-whither, perhaps, most of the other members of the Cabinet were gone. Into such a state of atrophy has the Reform question sunk!

THE DUKE OF ST. ALBANS, it is said, was recently captured by some brigands when travelling through Italy, and, after detaining his Grace some days, they allowed him to go at large on receiving £150 as ransom money, after receiving which they had the nerve to request the Duke to intercede on their behalf with the King of Italy for a free pardon, and, authorising his Grace to be their "captain," they promised not to pursue their present mode of living.

DECORATIONS FOR SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have recently issued a minute expressing their desire to obtain a design for the decoration of one of the large lunettes at the north end of the south court. The lunette is a semicircle of eighteen feet radius, a strip of one foot six inches high being cut off the bottom by the skirting. The subject is to be an illustration (life-size) of workmanship in any decorative art or manufacture. Three artists will be invited to make a suitable design, for which the department will pay £50 for each. In addition to the artists to be named, artists of any country not specially invited can compete if they think fit to do so. And two sums of £50 and £25 will be paid respectively to the two artists not named by the department whose designs are chosen. The design ultimately adopted by the department will be enlarged by students for execution in mosaic, life-size, and the artist whose design is chosen for execution will be required to superintend the enlargement of the work and approve it, for which he will receive a further payment of £50. All the designs will be publicly exhibited. They are to be made to a prescribed scale—namely, within a lunette formed by the segment of a circle of one foot radius, cut off by a chord parallel to the diameter one inch above the diameter. Thus the segment will be of nearly two feet base, eleven inches high. The designs are to be sent in with a cipher, on or before the 16th of June, 1885, addressed to the Secretary of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, London, W.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Earl Granville laid upon the table two minutes of the Committee of Council on Education, the first of which provided that, with respect to small schools, not more than six might unite, and by that means obtain the advantage of inspection and certificated masters. The object of the second was to render the examinations in the evening schools more efficient and satisfactory.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ARMY AND NAVY ESTIMATES.

Lord C. Paget brought up the Navy Estimates, and the Marquis of Hartington the Army Estimates.

THE BELFAST RIOTS.

Sir H. CAIRNS, in moving for papers and calling attention to the circumstances connected with the commission of inquiry into the recent disturbances at Belfast and to the administration of the law against party processions in Ireland, complained that at the time of these riots the Irish Executive was represented solely by Sir G. Brown, the Commander-in-Chief, and that the issue of a commission of inquiry had anew created ill-will in the town of Belfast and prejudiced the case against the prisoners who had subsequently to be tried. He also took exception to the *personnel* of the commission, and contended that the inquiry had been conducted by the commissioners, and the law administered by the authorities in Dublin Castle, in a partial and unfair spirit. The Orangemen of the north had been debarred from walking in procession and displaying party flags and emblems, while the Catholics in the south had been allowed to carry out the procession in honour of O'Connell without molestation. This the Protestants felt to be a grievance, and hence the recommencement of the disturbances in Belfast. He hoped the Government would be enabled to give the House an explanation calculated to assure the public mind.

Sir R. FEELE maintained that the conduct of the Government in the administration of the law relating to party processions in Ireland had been strictly constitutional and thoroughly impartial, and this he asserted on the authority of the opinion of the Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Lawson). It was not with the Government that the blame for what had occurred at Belfast really rested. The hon. and learned gentleman knew as well as he did that the local magistrates of the place entirely failed in their duty, and the Lord Lieutenant of the county in the town of Belfast itself had had the boldness to assert that, if the mayor had remained and the local magistrates had done their duty, the disturbances would have been suppressed in the course of a few days. The folly of the theologians, in fostering religious animosities, was the real source of the repeated disturbances which had disgraced Belfast.

Lord C. HAMILTON denied that the North of Ireland was the special seat of religious discord. The people of that province lived and prospered in peace and harmony. He insisted that, in every respect, the O'Connell procession was a party demonstration. The Government, by conniving at that breach of the law, had led to the disturbance at Belfast.

The debate was continued by Mr. McMahon, Mr. Whiteside, Sir G. Grey, Mr. Maguire, and other members; after which, the motion was withdrawn.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE DEFENCES OF CANADA.

Lord LYVEDEN directed attention to the report of Colonel Jervois on the defences of Canada, which, he said, proved unmistakably the utterly defenceless condition of the Canadian frontier. He contended that we ought not to rely upon the conciliatory intentions of the American people, as it was well understood when, a few weeks ago, there was a prospect of peace being concluded between the Northern and Southern States, that peace and union meant war with England. He wished to know what measures the Government intended to adopt.

Earl DE GREY and RUPON regretted that any doubt should have been expressed with regard to the disposition of the United States Government towards this country. It was the intention of Ministers to ask Parliament and the Canadian Assembly to take their share respectively in providing for the efficient defence of the colony, and the Estimates for the present year would include a sum of £50,000 for the fortifications of Quebec. Government also proposed that Canada should undertake the fortification of Montreal and the important territory westward. In addition, 81,000 men would be allotted into the militia of the colony, and her Majesty's Government would afford every encouragement for the establishment of schools for the training of officers.

The Earl of DERRY considered the avowal of Government with respect to the defenceless state of one of our most important colonial possessions was very humiliating at a moment when the question of peace or war depended, not upon the calm consideration of friendly Governments, but the excited passions of popular assemblies and a nation which undoubtedly did entertain extremely hostile feelings towards this country. The noble Earl also condemned the delay in providing for the defence of Canada, and expressed a hope that a more definite statement would be made as to what was intended to be done in the way of naval preparation on the lakes.

After some observations from Earl Granville, the Earl of Malmesbury, the Earl of Ellenborough, and Earl Russell, the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Mr. Hibbert obtained leave to bring in a bill to permit capital punishments to be carried out, under certain regulations, within the interior of prisons, Sir G. Grey observing that this question was now under the consideration of the Royal Commission on Capital Punishments, and that it was desirable to have their opinion before the measure proceeded further.

THE POOR LAWS.

A motion by Mr. A. Smith, that the office of the one secretary rendered capable of sitting or voting as member of the Commons House of Parliament, by the 9th clause of the Poor Law Act, lately vacated by Mr. Gilpin, ought to be abolished, gave rise to some discussion as to the necessity of that office; and, on a division, the motion was negatived by 193 to 17.

Mr. C. VILLIERS moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide for the better distribution of the charge for the relief of the poor in unions. The bill provided that the union fund should hereafter have the maintenance of all the poor within the union, so that the charge should be commensurate with the administration. It would also repeal the clause in the Act of Parliament that provided for the retention of the parochial system, transfer the power of removal from overseers to guardians, and abolish removability from parish to parish in the same union.

Mr. HENLEY did not object to the introduction of the bill, but he hoped sufficient time would be given for members to consult their constituents before it went to a second reading.

After some remarks from Mr. Locke, who thought that the case of the metropolis would not be met by the bill, and that special legislation would be necessary, leave was given to bring in the bill.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR laid upon the table a bill conferring on the County Courts a limited jurisdiction in equity. He proposed to recommend the County Court Judges to make their orders for instalments payable weekly instead of monthly. He also stated that he intended to bring in a general measure which, among other provisions, would shorten the period during which debts should be recovered, and prohibit the recovery of any debt on account of a score for intoxicating liquors supplied for consumption on the premises.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INCLOSURE OF OPEN SPACES NEAR THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. DOULTON moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the best means of preserving for the public use the forests, commons, and open spaces in and around the metropolis.

Mr. COWPER approved of the appointment of a Committee, but hinted that they would waste their time if they dealt with the questions to be referred to them in the expectation that the national funds would be available. On the contrary, the real object was to ascertain how best the funds of the metropolis itself could be applied to the preservation of the belt of common surrounding it.

The motion was agreed to.

RECRUITING FOR THE ARMY.

Mr. O'REILLY called attention to the present mode of recruiting for the Army, and moved the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject. The hon. member contended that the existing system was, in practice, but another form of impressment, and necessarily led to wholesale desertions. As a remedy he recommended straightforward enlistments from the militia into the Line, local recruiting in the districts in which the regiments were known, and the extension of the period of service from ten to twelve years.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON said the suggestions of the mover were certainly entitled to weight, and some of them were already under the consideration of the War Office; but, although there were many evils incidental to the present system, he could not agree to the motion, as a Royal Commission had but lately reported on the subject.

After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

BRITISH SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

Mr. ADDERLEY moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the present state of the British establishment on the west coast of Africa.

Mr. CARDWELL assented to the motion, and hoped the inquiry would be a full, free, open, and searching one.

THE FRANCHISE.

Mr. BAINES obtained leave to bring in a bill to extend the elective franchise in the boroughs of England and Wales to occupiers of £2 houses.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Scourfield moved the second reading of the Private Bill Costs Bill, the object of which was to prevent unnecessary and vexatious litigation in connection with railway bills, by giving Select Committees power to order costs in cases where the opposition was frivolous or unwarranted. The motion gave rise to a long discussion, but ultimately the bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. Denman moved the second reading of the Felony and Misdemeanour Evidence and Practice Bill, the objects of which were to assimilate the practice in cases of felony and misdemeanour to that which prevails in civil causes, by allowing counsel for the prosecution to sum up his case where no witnesses were called for the prisoner, and enabling counsel for the defence, whose witnesses had been called for the prisoner, to sum up the evidence at the end of the case. The bill further provided that, when a witness on either side gave false testimony, or evidence contrary to that which he had given to the parties who had examined him previously, it should be competent to such parties to show that he had given such evidence. Sir G. Grey assenting to the bill on the part of the Government, the motion for the second reading was agreed to.

Leave was given to Mr. E. Crauford to bring in a bill to allow affirmations or declarations to be made instead of oaths in all civil and criminal proceedings in Scotland.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

CROWN COLONIES IN BRITISH AMERICA.—In answer to Lord Wharncliffe, Earl GRANVILLE said that various proposals had been made by the Hudson's Bay Company for the settlement of the Red River territory, and counter-proposals had been made by her Majesty's Government, but no definite arrangement had been concluded. Recently a further proposal had been made by the above-named company, which had been sent by her Majesty's Government to the Canadian Government, with a request that they would take immediate steps for defining the boundary between the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company and their own. In the present state of negotiations for the confederation of the British American provinces, it would be injudicious to allude to anything with regard to the Red River settlement being formed into an independent colony.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS IN INDIA.

Mr. AYRTON moved for a return of the expenditure in England and in India on account of the electric telegraphs in India, showing the amount expended yearly on account of permanent works and annual maintenance and expenses; and an account of the annual receipts from the telegraphs, and of the number of miles of telegraph and of stations open in each year (in continuation of Parliamentary paper No. 287, of Session 1863).

THE OFFICERS OF THE GREENWICH UNION.

Mr. MAGUIRE asked the President of the Poor-Law Board whether his attention had been drawn to the acts of illegality brought home to the paid officers of the Greenwich Union in connection with the cases of Mary Moriarty, Julia Hannon, and others; and, if so, whether any and what official cognisance has been taken by the Poor-Law Board of the conduct of the officers concerned; and whether the circumstances connected with these and similar cases of removal to Ireland do not call for amendment of the law; and, if so, whether the Government were prepared to propose such amendment without delay.

Mr. VILLIERS said that in 1860 the law on this subject had been amended, and, instead of Irish paupers being merely deposited on the coast of Ireland, they were conveyed to their native parishes. The cases alluded to arose from a departure from that amendment, and had formed the subject of an inquiry.

PRISONERS IN NEWGATE.

Mr. LOCKE asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been directed to the treatment of persons confined in Newgate; whether it was true that all persons apprehended in the city of London on suspicion of any offence are (regardless of their antecedents) lodged in Newgate gaol and treated as criminals; and whether persons charged with less serious offences are treated the same as persons charged with murder.

Sir G. GREY said that persons in the position in question were not treated as criminals, although the regulations of the prison required that they should clean out their cells. Their friends were allowed to see them, under certain conditions, and their legal advisers had free admission to them.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN SCOTLAND.

In reply to Mr. Black, the LORD ADVOCATE said that the sections of the Act alluded to were not repealed, but their stringency had been relaxed. With regard to the second part of the question, he had to inform the hon. member that it was not his intention to bring in any bill to place the medical practitioners in Scotland on a footing of equality with the medical practitioners in England and Ireland.

BANKS OF ISSUE BILL.

On the order of the day for the second reading of this bill, Mr. BUCHANAN moved an amendment to the effect that it is expedient to inquire into the working of the Acts regulating banks of issue, and in the mean time that the second reading of this bill be postponed.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER remarked that the point at issue was not one of free trade as connected with this branch of commercial operations. Banking was one thing; the issue of promissory notes by a finance banking company another. On the whole, he deprecated any discussion as to the larger portion of the general principle, especially at this period of the existence of the present Parliament. Ultimately the amendment was withdrawn, and the bill was read a second time.

The Lord Advocate obtained leave to introduce a bill to alter and amend the system of the registration of writs relative to land in Scotland. The Courts of Justice Building Bill was passed through Committee; and the Courts of Justice Concentration (Site) Bill was read a second time.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1865.

BELFAST RIOTS.

AN Irish debate is not usually very edifying, although it may be amusing, from the chance of a "row" in the course of it. And yet the House of Commons has consumed nearly a whole evening in an Irish debate, during which there was much said to interest the general public, but—no "row." This is a remarkable phenomenon, and well worthy of being chronicled. Not that indications of pugnacity were lacking, but these manifestations were confined to those who are generally regarded as the least Irish of the Irish. The occasion was this: As every one knows, the town of Belfast was the scene, in August last, of most disgraceful riots, in the course of which many lives were lost and a vast deal of property was destroyed. The Government appointed a Commission to inquire into the circumstances under which these disturbances took place and into the condition of the police force of the town. The report of that Commission was to be laid on the table of the House in the course of a few days; but the hot Hibernian blood could not wait till full materials for debate were ready, and so Sir Hugh Cairns brought forward a motion condemning the conduct of the Government in issuing the Commission, as well as its constitution and manner of conducting the inquiry. In the course of his speech he asserted that the laws were

administered in a most partial and unfair way in Ireland; that the Catholics were favoured, and the Protestants subjected to all manner of grievances—the one party being allowed to break the law with impunity, while the least impropriety on the part of the other was rigorously punished. As special instances, he adduced the M-Manus funeral procession, and the demonstration in Dublin on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the O'Connell monument. Both these demonstrations, he maintained, were violations of the Act for restraining party processions; and the latter especially was so obnoxious to the Protestants of the country that it led directly to the riots in Belfast a few days afterwards. Now, we will not discuss nice legal points as to what is a party procession, or what coloured flags constitute party emblems; but we are at a loss to understand how a procession in Dublin could offend the feelings of the people of Belfast, many miles off. The O'Connell procession offended nobody in Dublin, there was no breach of the peace there, and the whole affair passed off in the most orderly manner possible. But, according to Sir Hugh Cairns and his supporters, this peaceful procession in Dublin was so obnoxious to the Orangemen of Belfast that they were justified in originating the anti-Catholic riots which followed. The northern Orangemen seem to have felt somewhat like Capulet, when he exclaimed—

Bring me my long sword, ho! Old Montague has come,
And flourishes his blade in spite of me.

But, as nearly the whole length of the island intervened between the offenders and the offended, it is difficult to understand how the blade of old Montague (the Dublin Catholics) could have flashed so offensively in the eyes of Capulet (the Belfast Orangemen). One might be apt to suggest that "a crutch! a crutch!" would have been more appropriate to the occasion than the "long sword" called for, save that even a crutch may be a dangerous weapon in fanatical Irish hands.

But what good purpose did Sir Hugh Cairns and his friends propose to serve by this motion? We are willing to allow that the debate, except in one or two respects, was moderately introduced, and calmly and ably sustained; but, except to serve party purposes by fastening blame on the Irish Government (which, by-the-by, was represented by Sir Robert Peel alone on the occasion), or to forestall the condemnation of the authorities and fanatics of Belfast which the Commissioners' report was expected to contain, we are puzzled to see what object was aimed at. In either case, the course taken was unworthy of men pretending to the character of patriots or statesmen. The Protestants of the north of Ireland, or a portion of them, may think that they are unfairly dealt with by the present Government, and that they have as good a right to get up Orange demonstrations as others have to parade in honour of O'Connell; but it should not be forgotten that the movement to do honour to the Great Liberator was a national one, whereas Orange processions are in themselves essentially sectarian and offensive. Had it been a question between Ribbon and Orange demonstrations, we could have understood the feeling; but the parallel does not hold in the case in question. No Irishman with a spark of liberality or national pride in his heart would refuse to honour the memory of the man who did more for his country than any other dozen sons she has ever produced; and we cannot help thinking that such men as Sir Hugh Cairns and Mr. Whiteside are gravely to blame for fanning the flame of party animosity in Ireland, which burns brightly enough without such encouragement as their countenance affords. The population of Belfast is of a mixed kind, and embraces large numbers of ignorant and excitable men of all persuasions; sectarian rioting has become chronic in the place; the Protestants have long been accustomed to entire sway there, and it is likely enough that they can ill stomach being placed upon an equality with their Catholic fellow-citizens, whom they can barely tolerate among them. But they must learn to do so; and it certainly ill becomes men who ought to be free from such feelings to encourage hatred and bitterness about matters which ought to be bonds of peace and heralds of good-will on earth.

"The folly of the theologians!" There is the source of all the mischief. The present Chief Secretary for Ireland is not specially distinguished for gravity and discretion; but he has a rough-and-ready trick of telling plain, though maybe unpalatable, truths; and in quoting the declaration of Grattan, that "the folly of the theologians" thwarted all efforts for the improvement of Ireland, he pointed out the real cause of nearly all the evils which afflict that unhappy country, and certainly the source of the periodical riots in Belfast. Would the theologians on both sides, and especially—in Belfast, at least—the Protestant theologians, cease to make religion a bone of contention, instead of a message of peace, and, acting on the advice of good Bishop Berkeley, suspend their animosities, forget religious feuds, and consider each other in the amiable light of countrymen and neighbours, Belfast might wipe out the stain that now disgraces her, and be in reality what Lord Claud Hamilton, with doubtful accuracy, says she is now—a community in which industry, prosperity, and harmony prevail. But, so long as theologians indulge in the folly of embittering men's minds by their vain disputations and rivalries, there will be periodical outbreaks of popular feeling, and disturbances which can only be repressed or suppressed by the strong arm of law and force.

THE EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY which is to surround Paris will require seven bridges, which are now commenced, together with nine locomotives for the Western Railway Company. Another establishment in Paris is constructing three steam-engines, to replace three which were lost on their passage to Egypt during a storm. An order has been received in Paris from Austria for a set of machinery for a sugar refinery, with a steam-engine of 25-horse power.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES will, by command of the Queen, hold leveés at St. James's Palace, on behalf of her Majesty, on Wednesday, the 8th of March next; and on Wednesday, the 22nd of March next, at two o'clock.

FIELD MARSHAL VISCOUNT LORD COMBERMERE, G.C.B., died on Tuesday, at Clifton, in his 96th year.

THE LATE DUKE OF NORTHUMBERLAND possessed one seventh of the county of Northumberland—viz., 168,000 acres.

AT TRINIDAD the coolies have become very insubordinate, and demanded higher wages.

MOUNT ETNA and Mount Vesuvius have been unusually vigorous in their eruptions of late.

A BABY recently born in Boston, Massachusetts, has been christened "Constitutional Amendment."

A STRONG SAFE on the premises of Mr. Dixon, Birmingham, was recently forced by burglars, who obtained 3jd. for their trouble.

THE WITTEMBERG CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES has just pronounced in favour of the abolition of the punishment of death, by a majority of fifty-six to twenty-seven.

M. BERRYER, the great French Advocate, has accepted an invitation to the next annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, which is to take place about a month hence.

LORD ENFIELD, M.P. for Middlesex, and eldest son of Lord Stafford, has consented to accept the office of Secretary of the Poor-Law Board, just vacated by the resignation of Mr. Gilpin, M.P. for Northampton.

LORD HARRIS, on Wednesday, laid the foundation-stone of a new bridge across the Thames at Battersea. The bridge is intended to be used by the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, the present bridge being found insufficient for their traffic.

MR. W. S. LINDSAY, M.P., is again exceedingly ill, and there can be very little doubt that he will not be able to contest the borough of Sunderland at the general election.

LORD WILLOUGHBY D'ERESBY died on Wednesday night, after a protracted illness. Lady Willoughby, to whom he was most tenderly attached, had only preceded him by a few weeks.

MR. CHORLEY, a magistrate of Leeds, has had his house mobbed and been hooted in the streets for having prosecuted his cook for stealing two pounds of dripping, which she regarded as her "perquisite." The disturbance was so great that the military had to be sent for.

NINE FISHERMEN WERE DROWNED OFF HARTLEPOOL during the gale on Monday. A mob of disreputable persons, numbering nearly 200, pillaged the effects of the poor fellows as they were washed ashore in a most disgraceful manner.

A YOUNG LADY recently called at the Treasury Department, Washington, and waited for one of the clerks; when he appeared she reproached him for having jilted her, and shot him dead.

THE OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT is said to have sent a note to the protecting Powers of Syria proposing a general amnesty in favour of those implicated in the Syrian insurrection of 1860.

A HEAVY GALE commenced to blow over London on Saturday evening and raged with more or less fury during the whole of Sunday. Several accidents are reported.

THE PRUSSIAN POLICE are to be taught shorthand, and take down the proceedings of public meetings, as a check upon the expression of political opinions.

THE DEAN AND CANONS OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD, have augmented the stipend of the Greek chair in that University from £40 to £500 per annum.

A WORKMEN'S ART-EXHIBITION was opened in Manchester on Monday. Although on a small scale, the exhibition possesses considerable excellence.

THE FALLS OF SNOW have been very heavy in Scotland, and several lines of railway and leading highways have been blocked up. Some lives have also been lost.

A SILKWORM which feeds upon oak-leaves has been discovered in China. The silk is a little coarse, but the Chinese mix it with cotton, and so make silk of a rough texture, which is used to a very large extent.

THE EXECUTION OF PELIZZONI, now under sentence of death in the gaol of Newgate for the murder of Michael Harrington in a public-house brawl on Saffron-hill, has been respite by Sir G. Grey until the 22nd of March.

LIEUTENANT CAMPBELL, one of the claimants of the earldom and entailed estates of Breadalbane, is making a new effort to get the Court of Session to appoint a judicial manager of the estates pending the litigation.

A FIRE of more than ordinary magnitude broke out at Rotherhithe on Tuesday. It is believed to have originated in the premises of a firm of barge-builders, whence it extended to a large granary containing 2000 quarters of grain, besides doing other mischief.

A NEW INVENTION in France is said to be a pair of musical boots, which have been exhibited to the Emperor. At every step the pressure of the boot produces melody—it may be a waltz, a mazurka, or an operatic air. This arrangement would be extremely convenient for a dancing-master.

A NOTORIOUS BRIGAND CHIEF, named Tamburini, has been arrested at Rome. To his account there are laid 23 cases of *grassazione* (attacks with arms), in which twenty-three persons were killed. Six thousand sheep are said to have been slaughtered by him.

SAMUEL KNIVERTON and ANN SCRIMSHIRE, both of whom are deaf and dumb, were married at the parish church of St. Anne, Limehouse, on Saturday last. An interpreter attended, and the responses were made through the finger alphabet. A great number were present to witness the ceremony, which excited great interest by its novelty.

ANDREW McRELONE, a lawyer's clerk, has been committed for trial at Belfast, charged with having, in a fit of drunkenness, cursed the Queen, said he would command 30,000 men who were opposed to the Protestant Government, and that he would like to be the executioner of the Prince of Wales.

A MEETING OF DELEGATES from Switzerland, Bavaria, Baden, and Württemberg, to negotiate a treaty of commerce between the first-named country and Germany, has been appointed for March 1, at Stuttgart.

THE SCAFFOLDING before the north front of the Cathedral of Notre Dame, in Paris, has been removed, and the façade, with the magnificent Gothic window, 40 ft. in diameter, can now be seen to great perfection, all the rich sculptures having been admirably restored.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT issued decrees on Tuesday appointing the commissioners for the Universal Exhibition of 1867, and for the Universal Exhibition of Fine Arts, to take place in Paris at the same time. Among those appointed members of the commission are Earl Granville, Earl Cowley, and Mr. Cobden.

EXPERIMENTS are being made in Aldershot camp with the South American "jerked beef" with a view to its introduction in the Army if found desirable. The beef at present does not find favour with the men, who consider it deficient in nutritive properties, and find fault with its flavour.

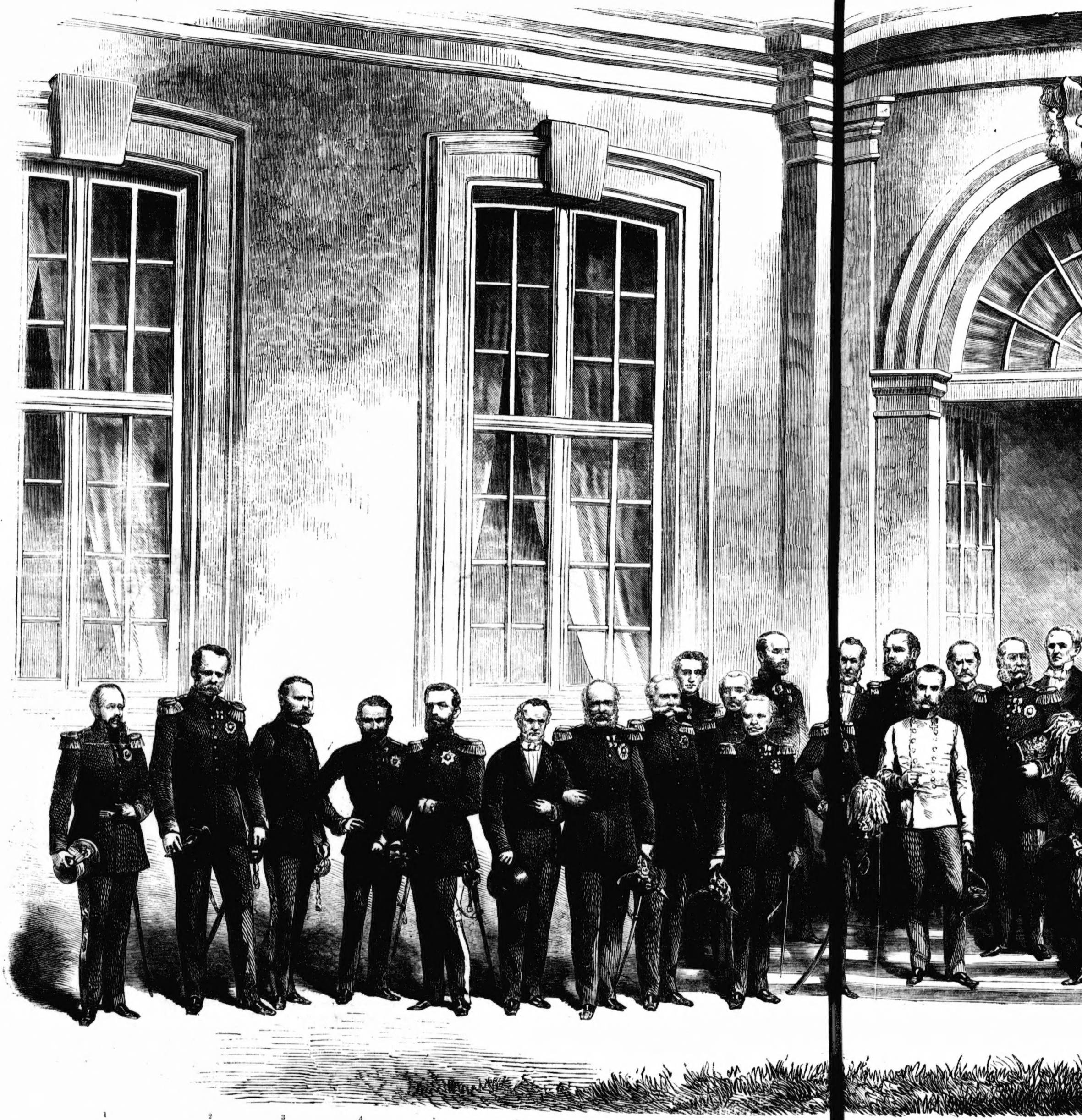
A FIRE was discovered in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, on Tuesday morning, which was fortunately extinguished before it had extended beyond the room where it originated, although a number of important public documents have been destroyed. It is alleged that the fire was the work of an incendiary, the miscreant having broken a window and thrown some combustible matter into the room.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the delegates from the various Chambers of Commerce who are united together in an association has been held in London this week. The reform needed in the law of bankruptcy was the first subject under discussion. Resolutions in favour of a system similar to that of Scotland were carried. Several other matters were discussed.

THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND, finding that the custom of giving servants percentages on the amount of tradesmen's bills, or other equivalent perquisites, very generally prevails in his establishment, has written a forcible letter to a West-end firm on this subject. He has resolved to dismiss from his service any servant who may in future be detected receiving percentages or an equivalent. Nor will he afterwards obtain goods from the tradesman who gives them.

AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN remarked the other day to a Speyside shop-keeper that it must have been very awkward for the people of the north to be cut off for nearly a week by the snowstorm from all communication with London and other large towns. "Vera true," was the reply; "but ye seem to forget that it was just as awkward for London an' the lairge towns as it was for us."

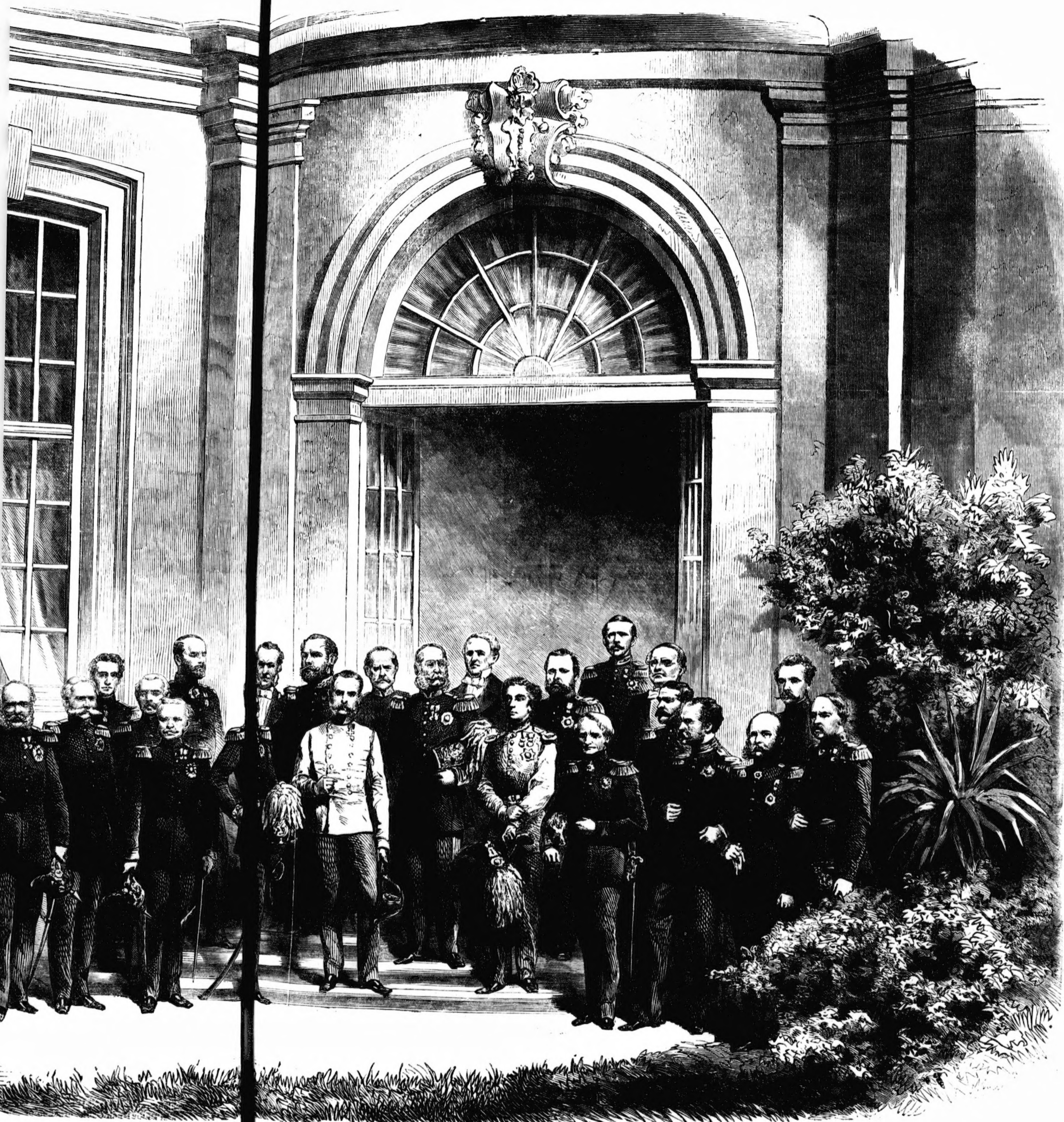
THE ALBERT MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Windsor Castle.—The decoration of the interior of the Wolsey Chapel, as a memorial to the late Prince Consort, with mosaic-work, by Dr. Salvati, of Venice, is making great progress. The side panels (six to each) of six of the windows on the north and south side of the chapel have been filled in with the imperishable glass mosaics, arranged in elegant patterns from the cartoons furnished by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, and produce an exceedingly rich effect. The centre of each panel is occupied by the initial letter A, surmounted by a crown, both in gold colour, while above and beneath are white ribbons bearing the motto "Treu und Fest," in black German text, the ground-colour of the design being a dark crimson. The carved stonework facing of the interior west wall is now being prepared for the grand and beautiful work with which it will be covered. There are no less than twenty-eight large panels upon this wall, which it is understood will be filled with mosaic pictures of the Sovereigns of England. The side windows will be filled with stained glass by Messrs. Clayton and Bell, while the portion of the wall beneath the windows will be decorated by Baron Triguetti in marble inlay-work. Although only a small building, the decorations will probably cost some £20,000 before they are finished, and the works will take a long time to execute. Mr. Scott is the architect; the cost of the decorations being defrayed by the Royal children.



1. Charles, King of Württemberg. 2. Ludwig III., Grand Duke of Hesse. 3. William, Duke of Brunswick. 4. Adolphus, Duke of Nassau. 5. Frederick, Grand Duke of Baden. 6. Dr. Duckwitz, Burgomaster of Bremen. 7. George Victor, Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont. 8. George V., King of Hanover. 9. Dr. Haller, Burgomaster of Hamburg. 10. Wilhelm III., King of the Netherlands. 11. Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria. 12. Charles Alexander, Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar. 13. Dr. Müller, Burgomaster of Frankfurt. 14. Adolphus George, Prince of Lippe-Schaumburg. 15. Frederick William, Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. 16. Dr. Duckwitz, Burgomaster of Bremen. 17. Prince of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen. 18. Bernhard, Duke of Saxe-Weimar. 19. William I., King of Prussia. 20. Frederick, heir to the throne. 21. Prince of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen. 22. Bernhard, Duke of Saxe-Weimar. 23. William I., King of Prussia. 24. Frederick, heir to the throne. 25. Prince of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen. 26. Bernhard, Duke of Saxe-Weimar. 27. William I., King of Prussia. 28. Frederick, heir to the throne.

SOVEREIGNS OF THE STATES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FREE CITIES

CONSTITUTING THE GERMANIC CONFEDERATION.—(C)



8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

Grand Duke of Baden. 6. Dr. Duckwitz, Burgomaster of Bremen. 16. Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria. 27. Frederick William, Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. 8. Bernhard, Duke of Saxe-Meiningen. 9. Johann, Prince of Lichtenstein. 10. Günther, Prince of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt. 11. Frederick Wilhelm I., Prince of Hesse. 12. Prince of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen. 13. Dr. Rieck, Burgomaster of Lubeck. 14. Ludwig II., King of Bavaria. 15. Peter, Grand Duke of Oldenburg. 16. Johann, King of Saxony. 17. William I., King of Prussia. 18. Ernest II., Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. 19. Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. 20. Frederick, heir apparent of Anhalt-Dessau-Cöthen.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FREE CITIES CONTRIBUTING THE GERMANIC CONFEDERATION.—(FROM PHOTOGRAPHS.)—SEE PAGE 115.

THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.

WE this week publish an Engraving showing the progress of the Thames Embankment between Waterloo and Westminster Bridges—the spectator being supposed to be looking towards the new Westminster Palace.

The works next to Westminster Bridge are those which attract the greatest amount of public attention, for there everything can be watched, from the pumping-out of water to the puddling-in of clay between the timbers of the cofferdam; and here, also, can be seen the whole plan of struts and cross-timbers which enables the iron caissons to keep out the whole flood of the Thames for a depth of 40 ft. above them, and resist a pressure of no less than 120 tons on each caisson. From no point of the river can the whole system on which the embankment is to be built be better seen than here, for here are both the iron and timber embankments behind which the massive granite face of the real embankment is to rise. The method of building this iron cofferdam, though very simple, is from its very simplicity of great interest. The caissons are elliptical tubes of wrought-iron rings or belts, each ring or belt being 12 ft. long by 7 ft. wide and 4 ft. deep, with a flange or edge that admits of the rings being bolted one to another. Three or four of these rings are bolted together and sunk between guiding piles to their proper position in the bed of the river, then others are similarly added on till the height of the whole is sufficient to raise them above high-water mark, and the weight is sufficient to sink the hollow tube of iron which they form through the soft mud on which they rest and keep them water-tight from below. When this result has been attained, the water is pumped out, and the tube gradually weighted with iron to force it lower till it has reached a fair depth, and has a firm hold in the ground, when the agency of the pneumatic machinery is called into play. After the workmen have descended and dug out the gravel and shingle to a depth of some two or three feet below the lowest internal edges of the tube, a weight of sixty tons of iron is placed upon it from the inside, with an air-tight iron cover, which closes in the top. Through an aperture in the top of this cover the air is forced in by steam power till it has reached a pressure of 8 lb. to the inch—a pressure which dilates the tube more than half an inch in all directions—when the air is suddenly released, and the cylinder as suddenly contracts and sinks through the earth which it has itself enlarged to a depth of two or three feet lower. This process has to be repeated over and over again, till all the superincumbent mud, and silt, and gravel has been penetrated, and that mysterious geological compound known by the name of London clay has been reached, when no effort of modern engineering can contrive to get anything much further. The presence of this London clay on the banks of the Thames varies in an almost unaccountable degree. In some cases it crops up close under the mud; in others it can only be found after a laborious penetration of 40 ft. below it. Thus one caisson may only penetrate 10 ft., or 12 ft. below the surface and its next neighbour may have to go to a depth of 40 ft., or 45 ft. Once, however, that it is reached, the sinking of the caissons stops; they are merely filled up to the level of low-water mark with solid concrete. Behind them it is intended that the foundations are to be built. The lower parts of these iron banks are never to be removed. The upper parts, which now shut out the Thames at Westminster, will, of course, be taken away as the wall of the real embankment is built behind them.

To take this part as exemplifying the process of construction, we have here a length of 240 ft. of iron caissons towards the river, shut in by a cross dam near Montague House, which reaches back from the caissons to the shore, so as to inclose a water-tight space of nearly an acre and a quarter. This space, though enough to make a fair ornamental lake, the screw-pumps of Messrs. Woodward and Murray soon cleared of water; and, as the supporting mass of this water inside diminished and the weight of that shut out increased, powerful timber struts have been added to the caissons till all are now said to be equal to more than double the weight which a full spring tide can bring against them. From this space the mud has been flushed out, and here in this space the labour of building the embankment proper has been begun. The first operation will be to clear out all the shingle and gravel to a depth of 14 ft. behind the caissons, or more than 40 ft. below high-water mark, additional and still more powerful timber supports being added to the caissons as the men get lower down beneath the river and the pressure of the great mass of water overhead increases. This somewhat hazardous work will be done in short sections at a time, and as fast as the required depth is reached—that is to say, on a level with the concrete with which the caissons are half filled—the excavation will cease, and the space is then to be filled up rapidly with solid concrete. On this will be laid the brickwork, and over all, on the river face, the solid blocks of granite, which are to rise in a massive wall to a height of 30 ft. above the river. It may give a good rough general idea of the gigantic proportions of this work if we merely mention the quantities with which Mr. Furness, the contractor for the first portion only, from Westminster to Waterloo Bridge, has to deal. First, then, 71,000 cartloads of earth have to be excavated, and 60,000 cartloads of concrete have to be “tipped in;” 4000 rods, or nearly 70,000 tons of brickwork have to be laid and faced with 30,000 tons of granite, and the whole has afterwards to be filled up behind with 400,000 cartloads of earth.

Another section of the embankment besides that we have mentioned, and which Mr. Furness is hurrying forward with the utmost possible speed, is that between Montague House and Hungerford, where the steam piledrivers are busy every minute of the day. This section is composed entirely of wood. The cofferdam is formed of wooden piles, in two rows, 7 ft. apart, and driven through the shingle, as close as they can be got together. The interval between the first and second rows is then “padded” in, in the usual manner, with stiff clay, till it is water-tight, when the water is pumped out, the cofferdam strengthened with struts, as in the case of the iron caissons; and the work of excavation, filling in with concrete, and, finally, building, will go on as behind those we have already mentioned. Altogether, no less than 1300 ft. out of the 2000 ft. of the first section to Waterloo Bridge have been dammed in with piles or caissons; and this length will be subdivided by nine cross sections, leading backwards, so as to render the work of pumping and subsequently building as easy as possible. The length, however, already inclosed towards the river, and over which the water now flows behind the cofferdam only on suzerainty, is very great, and will, when the Thames is entirely shut out, give a space of nearly eleven acres reclaimed from an unsightly, muddy foreshore into one of the noblest, and we may add one of the most needed, thoroughfares in Europe.

THE WESTMINSTER ELECTION.—The Hon. Captain Grosvenor, who has come forward to supply the vacancy which will occur in the representation of Westminster by the retirement of Sir De Lacy Evans, has commenced his public canvass. He declares that he is in favour of the ballot and of the total abolition of church rates, unless a measure of the kind such as Lord Ebury proposes can be carried by the unanimous approval of the nation. He will equalise the poor rates, and take other measures for the more efficient relief of the poor and the protection of the taxpayer. On the question of Parliamentary Reform he is for household suffrage in boroughs, and 40s. freeholders and £10 householders in counties; and, if he cannot get this, he will support anything tending in that direction.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES KEAN.—On the 12th of December these eminent artists commenced an engagement for six nights at the Victoria Theatre, Vancouver Island, in the course of which they performed “Henry VIII,” “Louis XI,” “Hamlet,” “The Merchant of Venice,” “Macbeth,” “Othello,” and “The Jealous Wife.” After the termination of their engagement, which proved successful beyond expectation, the Mayor and members of the council waited upon them at their hotel and delivered a complimentary address.

COPPER POISON IN ARTICLES OF FOOD.—The *Lancet* of Feb. 4 has done good service in exposing the practice of colouring or greening with salts of copper (a poisonous matter) various vegetable substances used as articles of food. The list of names and report should be read, it is well to know what to eat and what to avoid, and the public could easily protect themselves in the matter. The public are to blame for insisting upon having that which is pleasing to the eye without the slightest regard to its wholesomeness; it is, however, satisfactory to find that some of the most important manufacturing firms decline to give way to the popular demand, and strenuously refuse to supply any but pure goods.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

It seems to be the general conviction—I think I may say that it is settled—that Parliament will be dissolved in July. An opinion prevails that Parliament must meet for business on the return of the writs, but this opinion is incorrect. Parliament must meet, but it may be and probably will be prorogued immediately. Whether it will meet for business before the usual time will depend upon the result of the elections. The Conservatives boast, without any valid reason, I think, that they will have a large majority. If they should, Parliament will probably be called together in the autumn, as it would be scarcely constitutional for the Whigs to hold office for six months—knowing that the country had condemned them. The trial of strength will most likely be made on the choice of a Speaker. It is said that Mr. Walpole will be the Conservative candidate. Who will be the Whig candidate I have not heard; but if parties should be as nicely balanced as they are now, he must be a man strong in the favour of the House to beat Mr. Walpole, who is a general favourite.

A pamphlet lies before me with this title, “The Reform Club: an Enemy to Progress, an Opponent of Reform, the Preserver of Abuses, and a Combination against Freedom of Thought and the Rights of Electors. By Alfred Smee, F.R.S., &c.” This is a formidable indictment against the Reform Club; but, having read the pamphlet through, I do not think that the indictment is proved. Mr. Smee was a member of the Reform Club, but he went down to Rochester to canvass the voters there as “a follower of Lord Derby” and “the advocate of Conservative progress,” meaning thereby, of course, that he is a Conservative. When his address came before the committee of the Reform Club, it was thought right by the said committee to bring Mr. Smee to book; and it seems, to plain unsophisticated people, very proper that the committee should take this course. The Reform Club is a club of reformers. This is set forth in its rules; and though the word reformer may have a comprehensive meaning, it cannot be stretched to include a follower of Lord Derby, an advocate of Conservative progress, and an opponent of two acknowledged and steady Reformers. Mr. Smee, of course, was angry to be thus called to account, and still more angry when, upon the requisition of fifty members, he was, according to rule, by the refusal of his subscription, quietly expelled. But Mr. Smee has really no solid ground of complaint, nor will he find the public into whose ear he so eloquently pours his sorrow sympathise with him. Why should he wish to belong to a club with the members of which he can have no sympathy? Why does he not join the Carlton, or the Conservative, or the National? As a specimen of the sort of stuff which Mr. Smee writes, take the following extract from one of his letters:—“The Reform Club was doubtless instituted to sustain the principles of the Reformation, which gave to the country freedom and liberty of thought.” Mr. Smee’s wits must have gone a wool-gathering.

The Liberals of Lambeth would prefer that Mr. Williams should resign his seat, now that a good Liberal might be put in his place, and a contest at the general election thus be prevented. Mr. Doulton has given his constituents satisfaction, and they would like to save him the expense of a contest for a safe seat. But poor Mr. Williams’s faculties are impaired by successive attacks of paralysis, and it is doubtful whether he can be got to sign the document necessary to his acceptance of the Chiltern Hundreds.

That quiet, unassuming, unostentatious gentleman, Mr. Samuel Gregson, who died so suddenly the other day, has left behind him no less a sum than £300,000, the whole of which he has devised by will to his only daughter, who is married to a gentleman named Murray. Mr. Gregson was for many years a China merchant.

The House of Commons has decided to establish a board of referees to examine private bills and to decide upon certain facts before the bills are sent to Committee. There are to be two members of Parliament on the board, besides the Chairman of Ways and Means, who will preside; also, one gentleman, not a member, who will receive a salary; and Mr. Speaker’s counsel. The members are Mr. Adair and Mr. Hassard; the outsider is, I understand, the Right Hon. Sir William Gibson Craig, commissioner for the relief of the poor in Scotland, clerk of Crown registers and rolls in Scotland, formerly Lord of the Treasury, and for many years member of Parliament for the city of Edinburgh.

I am sorry to have again to refer to the Davenport brothers and their confederates, for I think that if the British press ceased to notice Transatlantic impostures fewer “spekulations” in the moral and spiritual wooden-nutmeg line would be imported. Don’t denounce them as impostors, don’t expose their ingenious swindles—that is, don’t advertise them gratuitously. But to our Davenports! Of course, you have heard of the Liverpoolians tying them up so tightly that the spirits who especially protect them could not “operate;” also of the Liverpoolians smashing their “cabinet,” and not an invisible being stirring to the rescue of the tambourines, guitars, and other spiritual properties. As I happen to know the how and why of all this from the most authentic sources, and have permission to make it public, I do so here. Mr. Sothern, the famous Lord Dundreary and David Garrick of the Haymarket Theatre, when in Liverpool last summer, accidentally discovered that he could free himself from any knot in which he was bound. He gave his mind to it, and every night, after he had left the theatre, was tied up, and soon learned to untie himself in a much shorter space of time than the notorious Brothers. Of course, it will be understood that Mr. Sothern attributed his success to practice, activity, and manual dexterity, and not to supernatural aid. However, one night, at the house of Mr. Henderson, the lessee of the Prince of Wales Theatre, Liverpool, Mr. Sothern found himself so tied that he could not free himself. He tried, and tried, and tried again; but vainly. He set to work to study the knot. The inventor of the new tie tied him up every night for a week, and Mr. Sothern found that it was impossible to get out of it. This, in anything but dreadful secrecy, impart he did to Mr. Cummins and several other gentlemen of Liverpool; and when the Davenport Brothers appeared there, they resolved to try the celebrated Sothern tie. They did so—with what effect is known. The Davenport Brothers found themselves in an “everlasting fix;” and the “spirits” Ariel, Puck, Hopper, and Hellwaine were dainty, struck work, and refused to come to their aid. Transatlantic “spekulations” may derive two useful lessons from this occurrence: not to exhibit at Liverpool—it is too near home—and not to put their faith in spirits. Since writing the above, I observe that the Davenports have also come to grief at Huddersfield, where, by means of the “Sothern knot,” their discomfiture was complete.

The ugly subject of burglary is in full ventilation in the City. The other day a man—mad or sane, I know not—forced his way into a coroner’s court being held in Shadwell, and said that he “had been invited by an undertaker, outwardly of great respectability, to take part in two burglaries in the City. He added that this undertaker kept a staff of burglars in his employment, and only used his business as a cloak for the more nefarious work in which he was employed.” Were ever two such disagreeable occupations united in one and the same person? Burglary and burials! What next? Accountant and assassin? or purveyor of cat’s meat and murderer to the Corporation of the City of London? Canards must be as common on the other side of Temple Bar as kiteflying. Here are materials for a sensational novel. Mr. Harrison Ainsworth evidently lived before his time. What a wonderful mixture of Tar-tar and Carrouche he could have made of such delightfully-lugubrious and melodramatic materials.

I was at the “private view”—why “private”? I never saw such a public crush in my life—at the Dudley Gallery last Saturday, and I was particularly struck with the behaviour of the ladies, who only came to criticise one another’s dresses, and stood in little knots, conversing loudly on domestic matters and other subjects of feminine interest, with their backs to the pictures, which their ample garments effectually concealed from the eyes of anxious critics and lovers of art. One is accustomed to see the dear creatures misbehave themselves in church and at the opera, and tyrannise over mankind almost everywhere; but surely picture-galleries, which have no real attractions for them, might be spared their extensive

presence and what I would not call their ill-bred behaviour if I could find any other word for it.

I hear that the *Pall-mall Gazette* is soon to appear as a morning review as well as an evening newspaper. Cornelius O’Dowd is writing in this journal as “Malachi Duggan, P.P.” He contributes short “Notes and Queries,” after the fashion of those which were so popular in *Blackwood*. I also learn that a new evening paper, price twopence, will shortly be issued from the office of the Thunderer, in Printing House-square.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Miss Helen Faucit is to reappear at DRURY LANE, on the 6th of March, in “Cymbeline.” Mr. James Anderson, who is engaged to act in conjunction with her, is to be the Iachimo. The engagement of Mr. Anderson will very materially strengthen the casts of the Shakespearean revivals. A jovial Faunconbridge and fiery Hotspur has been wanted. Messrs. Brough and Halliday, who as farce writers are a sort of Beaumont and Fletcher (I do not know which is Beaumont nor which is Fletcher, but leave the question open), have written an original farce which is shortly to be produced at Drury. Cardinal Wolsey has withdrawn himself from public life, and given way to Cardinal Richelieu. Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton’s play is very well cast. Richelieu, Mr. Phelps; Baradas, Mr. Henry Marston; Julie, Mrs. Hermann Vezin; Beringhen, Mr. Walter Lacy; and Joseph, Mr. Alfred Rayner. Every line of this capital play tells upon the audience, and the principal characters are nightly summoned before the footlights at the fall of the curtain.

The very dreary old comediotta of “A Day after the Wedding” has been revived at the HAYMARKET, and a Miss Blanche Aylmer (“Phoebe, what a name!”) has made her debut as Lady Elizabeth Freelove. It is a terribly slow affair, “The Day after the Wedding,” and a very bad one. It is only at the Haymarket that one gets glimpses of these pieces of the past—“The Castle of Andalusia” and the like. However, a novelty is to be produced there on March the 18th, when David Garrick and my Lord Dundreary are to be withdrawn from the bills, to give place to—not “Orinoko,” nor “The Roman Father,” nor “Zorinski,” nor “The Way to get Married,” nor “Education,” nor “Town and Country,” nor “Bon Ton,” nor “The Rehearsal”—but to the new sensation comedy of “The Woman in Mauve,” which has been written by Mr. Watts Phillips for Mr. Sothern, and was played once, successfully, at Mr. Sothern’s benefit at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Liverpool. I hear of wonderful scenic effects—snow shaken from shrubbery by the wind, frosty moonlights, and other startling realistic mechanism—and that Mr. Compton plays a policeman.

“Ici On Parle Français” has again been revived at the ADELPHI. “Masks and Faces” has again been revived at the Adelphi. “Ici On Parle Français” is a capital farce, and “Masks and Faces” is an admirable comedy or drama; but surely Londoners and visitors to London have seen them often enough. “Toujours perdrix,” &c. It is said that Miss Bateman has recovered from her illness, and will shortly reappear as Julia.

The new farce at the ROYALTY, “Cousin Adonis; or, Too Handsome for Anything,” hinges on the cynical belief of one Mr. Adonis Brown that young ladies will marry any fright or boor provided that fright or boor be possessed of £5000 a year. Mr. Adonis Brown, therefore, in order to test his two cousins, Sophia and Fanny, dresses himself like a “guy” and conducts himself like a Croat or Pandour. Is not he rich? And will not girls put up with anything for money? But the young ladies flout and scorn the monster; and Mr. Adonis Brown is glad to wash his face and mend his manners, convinced that good looks, amiability, and devotion are the best passports to a woman’s love. The piece is by Mr. J. P. Wooler.

The fight between the managers of the London theatres and the proprietors of the music-halls has called into existence a sort of company—a league, I may call it—for the abolition of theatrical monopoly. I will not enter into the statistics, figures, or arguments brought to bear upon the subject; I will only say that they are satisfactory and cogent. Here is an extract, which shows the end, aim, and purpose of the leaguers:—

It is therefore suggested that an Act be passed during the present Session of Parliament embodying, among other provisions, the following:—

1. That all theatres and places of public amusement be placed, and shall constantly be, under the supervision of the district surveyors, who are to be paid by fee chargeable on the theatres.
2. That each theatre shall maintain at least two firemen—one in the auditorium and one behind the curtain—at all times when the doors are open to the public.
3. That so much of the statute of 6 and 7 Victoria vesting the powers of licensing theatres in the Lord Chamberlain and the Justices of the Peace be repealed; but leaving, as heretofore, the censorship of plays in the hands of the Lord Chamberlain.

The real meaning is free trade in theatres, as in everything else. Why should theatrical speculation be a monopoly, when every other monopoly has been swept away? Who and what are the managers of the London theatres that they are to be legislated for at the expense of the public, of authors, and of actors? I think that all well-wishers of the drama should say good speed to the leaguers. Among the names already on the list of theatrical free-traders I find Messrs. Meizler, Mr. Thomas Chappell, Mr. Elliot Galer, and others, who have subscribed, what sums I know not, for preliminary expenses. Mr. Strange has put down £250; Mr. Boccicault, £250; Mr. Howard Paul, £25; and Mr. Day, of Birmingham, £50. The pamphlet on this subject explains the “reasons for the repeal or amendment of the laws affecting theatres and other places of public amusement.” What will they say in the green-rooms? Do away with theatrical monopoly! “Kill the boys and the luggage!” ‘Tis expressly against the law of arms! Doubtless they will ask themselves what the late George Colman, jun., would have thought of such a measure; or a still higher, as being a more ancient, authority, Sir William Davenant?

EXPERIMENTS were made, on Wednesday, on the South-Western Railway with an invention for permitting communication between passengers and guard and driver in any train. Electricity is the chief agent in the invention. The result of the experiments appears to have been most satisfactory.

CLERGY ORPHAN ASYLUM.—An interesting ceremony was performed last Saturday afternoon at the girls’ school of the Clergy Orphan Corporation. At the beginning of the present century Mr. James Farmer bequeathed £15,715 to the society on condition that, on every twenty-first anniversary of his death, the committee should award £500 to the orphan in the school whom they considered most worthy of it. On Saturday one of these presentations was made by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The fortunate recipient of the money is Miss Fayer, daughter of the late Rev. Robert Fayer, of Emmanuel Church, Camberwell.

BROTHER IGNATIUS.—A new order for youths, termed the “Order of St. William,” has been founded at Norwich by Brother Ignatius and the English Order of St. Benedict. The order is named after a reputed local martyr, and has been placed under the direction of Brother Stanislaus. Brother Dunstan, who has been on a visit to the west of England, seems to have been an object of much interest to the boys of Taunton, where he was known, being a son of Policeman Clench, of the Somersetshire constabulary. Brother Dunstan is second in command at the monastery at Norwich. The English Order of St. Benedict has now branches of its “third order” at Bristol, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and several other points.

EARL RUSSELL’S WORK ON THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION.—A new edition of Earl Russell’s “Essay on the English Government and Constitution,” has just been published by Messrs. Longman. His Lordship has written for it an introduction, in which he reviews the chief political events since the work was first issued, namely, forty years ago. After the title-page is the following:—“To the memory of Charles, Earl Grey, the constant friend of Mr. Fox in public and in private life, the undaunted champion of civil and religious freedom in all times and in all circumstances, the enlightened lover of his country in all her perils and perplexities, this book is dedicated as a token of affection and admiration by the author.” Forty years ago the noble Lord, in publishing in this work, said in it:—“Let Englishmen bear in mind that the old monarchies of the Continent are so vicious in structure and so decayed in substance as to require complete renovation, while the abuses of our Constitution are capable of amendments strictly conformable to its spirit, and eminently conducive to its preservation.” Events, he contends, have justified his belief. The noble Earl explains that all he meant by the “rest-and-be-thankful” declaration at Blairgowrie was that after having accomplished what we have in the way of Reform, we should rest and recover breath for further exertions. He also considers that capital punishments might with propriety be abolished.

OUR FEUILLETON.

THE CHARMED BULLET.

(Concluded from page 107.)

How long he lay in the position described in the last chapter he himself did not know. When he recovered his senses the darkness of night reigned around, and at first he could scarcely recollect where he was. With horror he at last recognised the place, and remembered the fearful moment when he had fallen to the ground. His feverish forehead had, however, become cooler; he felt cold, indeed, and shivering. With calm deliberation he reflected on what had happened.

Before making a fresh attempt to find the door, he endeavoured to discover his precise position in the gloomy building. Yonder stood the altar, with the golden cross; here was the window, and there must be the entrance into the sacristy. He cautiously groped his way thither, and now found that what he had previously taken for stone sculpture on the solid wall was the wood-carving of the door, which opened inwards. After searching about a little, his hand hit upon the spring, and with a sigh of gratitude, proceeding from the very bottom of his soul, he glided into the sacristy and thence into the open air.

He was saved. Although attended with sufficiently anxious suffering, the robbery was nevertheless successful, and he consoled himself with the idea that no one had seen him or could discover the exchange he had effected. But the fearful apprehension to which he had been a prey filled his heart with bitter rage and hatred. Who was the cause of his being driven from one crime to another but the infamous keeper, up in the forest? Who was it who had marked him for life? Who else but the keeper wanted to deliver him up to the House of Correction? And all this on account of a miserable bird—of a wretched woodgrouse! Admitting: he had done wrong, why should he now be so fearfully punished for it? Was a man to pay the penalty of his whole life for one guilty act? The keeper had an easy time of it; richly provided for, as long as he lived, by his situation, he struck out at the poor wretches around him who wanted to pick up the crumbs which fell from his table. No, Helzig would not, could not, agree to this. A poor man was quite badly enough off in this world, in the usual course of things; and he, especially, had quite atoned, by his fear and anxiety, for what had happened. He must save himself from prison. This would not be a fresh crime, but simply self-preservation.

Impelled by fear and hatred, the unhappy man worked himself more and more into the conviction that it was absolutely necessary for him to follow up his guilty deed by one still more guilty; and it was in this frame of mind that he sneaked back, unobserved by anyone, through the dark night, to his own dwelling.

It was, however, more an inward dread of the consequences of what he now meditated than actual depravity which urged him on further and further. He felt he could not recede, and, as though in a wild dream, and scarcely conscious of what he was about, he pursued the path of crime on which he had entered. The bullet burned like fire in his hand, and he felt impelled by a kind of wild haste to get rid again of the supernatural piece of lead. It is true that he no longer possessed a gun. He had only an old horse-pistol, which lay under the rubbish in the workshop. This he cleaned, and, having poured in a very full charge of powder, rammed down the fatal bullet; but the latter was larger than he had at first supposed, and he had to hammer away at it for a long time with the iron ramrod before he could force it in. At last it tooched the powder. Then, with careful steps, he glided up to the clock to see what time it was.

It was four in the morning—so long had he lain unconscious in the church—and it was now necessary that he should wait till day, so that he might be seen in the village immediately he had fired off the weapon. These two hours were the most painful of his whole life. He began to turn over in his mind what he had done and what he was about to do. He was about to shoot a man who had done him no injury except in the mere fulfilment of his duty. Who had done him no injury? Had that man not cut off a portion of his ear, and thus marked him for life? Was not, perhaps, the information which would send him to the House of Correction already laid before the magistrates? And what was it, really, which he himself was about to do? He was merely going to fire a pistol off into the air. Was that murder? If any evil power guided the bullet into his enemy's heart, would it be him who had directed it?

His conscience, it is true, struck him like a hammer, and replied, "Yes, yes, yes! You employ, consciously, that with which another sinned. You know what you are doing while you are firing off the weapon." But he had gone too far to be able to recede. The bullet was in the barrel; and as the sun, in all its magnificence, rose in the east, over good and bad alike, Helzig crept out of the house into a small alder-bush, situated some hundred paces off, aimed over the town in the direction in which he knew the keeper's lodge lay, and, while his eye flashed and his whole body trembled with inward emotion, exclaimed, "Go, bullet, and wound mortally him whom I mean."

At the moment his finger touched the trigger the report of the shot thundered through the quiet morning, and for an instant Helzig thought his arm was torn out of its socket, so great was the shock he experienced. The old pistol, too, as though grasped by some invisible power, flew out of his hand against the trunk of a young alder. On casting a timid glance towards the spot, Helzig perceived that the barrel was burst to pieces and the lock wrenched off. It seemed only by a miracle that his hand had escaped a most dangerous wound.

The deed was done. At the thought, it appeared as if a stream of ice cold water was running down his back. The horrible bullet had sped upon its unearthly and fatal errand, and the person whom, of all men, he had most feared was no more.

He left the pistol lying where it was. He was terrified whenever he looked at the weapon which had served him for so horrible a purpose, and, directing his steps towards a thick Hawthorn hedge, which, following the road, surrounded the little town, he soon afterwards entered the latter from the opposite side without having been met by a single person.

VI.

The first thing he now did was to enter the wine-shop, in order that, by the help of a morning dram, he might drive away his wild and gloomy thoughts. The host and his family were drinking their coffee as he entered.

"Confound it, Helzig, how queer you look this morning! Where do you come from so early?" inquired the host, whose observation the young fellow's agitated appearance and disordered hair could not escape. "You have been walking about in the mud early enough. Why, your forehead is bleeding!"

"Whose? Mine?" exclaimed the criminal, in affright, involuntarily carrying his hand to the part in question; "mine? I went out early into the wood, to get an oak handle for my hammer, and have scratched myself a little with a thorn-bush. Give me a dram! Apart from this, I am not at all well this morning."

"Well, you look bad enough, man; but the dram will do you good. If you would follow my advice, though, you would rather go home and get to bed."

"Pooh, pooh!" said Helzig, emptying at one draught the glass offered him. "I shall soon be better. What's o'clock?"

"Exactly a quarter to seven. Why, you have torn your ear, too!"

"Confound the thorns!" said Helzig, arranging his long, disordered hair over his right ear.

Several people from the nearest village now entered the wine-shop to attend the timber auction, which was fixed for seven o'clock. The host's services were called into requisition to wait upon them, and Helzig profited by the opportunity to leave the room and take the road to his own dwelling.

The landlord was right. A stolen glance which Helzig caught in

the small looking-glass against the wall of the public room informed him how wild, and pale, and jaded he looked.

After he reached home he washed, and then, having cleaned his clothes, proceeded slowly to where the beech-trees lay felled, and where the intending purchasers were already collected.

It was exactly seven o'clock when he reached the spot; but the forester, who was always extremely punctual to his time, was not yet there. The persons present were amazed at this. Helzig alone was acquainted with the reason; and for the first time since the deed, now that he felt sure it was really perpetrated, a remarkable feeling of uneasiness, for which he could not or would not account, crept over him.

It struck eight o'clock, and the keeper had not arrived. The people began to be impatient. A piece of news from the town, however, served to keep them in good humour for a short time. The sexton, who had come for the purpose of purchasing two or three pieces of timber, for some building-work in progress at his house, related with great indignation that, at daybreak, or rather as early as sunrise, that same morning, some impious hand had fired off a gun into the priest's room, and shivered the looking-glass. The ball had passed in at the window and through the middle of the glass, while the worthy priest, who had just got up to take his coffee at breakfast, had nearly been frightened to death. Despite all their efforts, they had been unable to discover either the criminal or the bullet.

Helzig did not say a single word, although he was the only person who could have thrown any light upon the subject. But he laughed grimly in his own mind that the devil should, for a joke, have guided the bullet through the priest's mirror; that the bullet had not been found was a matter of course—it had sought another mark.

At length half-past eight o'clock arrived, and there were no signs of the keeper, when the sexton, turning to Helzig, observed, "You might as well run over to the lodge; if you stir yourself a bit you may be there in three quarters of an hour, and see what has happened, for something must have happened, that is certain. We really cannot be kept waiting here all day."

Accustomed as Helzig was to execute whatever commissions he received from this quarter, and for which, by-the-way, he was always well paid, he nevertheless shrank going to the lodge—that morning at least. Must he be the person to go there? His going would certainly afford him the very best opportunity of convincing himself of the result of his act. The uncertainty in which he was plunged began to be painful to him; and, suddenly jumping up, he prepared to execute the sexton's commission.

To the lodge! He had not been afraid to fire the fatal bullet, and he ought not now to be afraid of the consequences; and at a rapid pace, which, when he reached the wood, at last became a run, he hastened along the narrow footpath; but, as he came to the end of his journey and approached the lodge, he was seized with alarm at the idea of what he would hear there, and he was several times obliged to stand still, to draw breath and recover his self-possession.

He was now within a short distance of the lodge, and could perceive, through the yet but slightly-leaved branches of the oak and beech trees, the red gable of the house; and his knees trembled under him as he, at last, entered the little garden, through which the path led up to the forester's-door.

Everything was silent as the grave. No one was visible. Yes: up at the window was a woman—the keeper's wife—who, on approaching the window, had a handkerchief to her eyes, and was evidently weeping.

The hound was lying before the door, and barked at Helzig. The latter did not hear it in the least. The garden, the house, whirled round him, and he staggered rather than walked up to the door, holding fast by the handle. It opened under the pressure of his hand, and, scarcely knowing what he was about, Helzig entered the house.

The keeper's assistant, Herr von Brievitz, came down the stairs. He looked, as usual, very gentlemanly and very melancholy; and, on observing Helzig, stuck his glass in the corner of his eye.

"You have come from the doctor, have you not?" he remarked, still standing on the stairs. "It is too late. He is dead." With these words he came completely down, and, without taking any further notice of the young man, went into the other room.

Helzig felt his knee-joints bend under him, blue and red lights swam before his eyes, and he flew rather than walked through the garden back again into the wood. On finding himself alone, however, a deadly sentiment of fear overcame him. What he had done appeared in glaring colours before his soul, and every budding leaf in the wide forest seemed to cry out, "Murderer! murderer!" The bird on the twig chirruped "Murderer!" The wood rustled "Murderer!" through the branches. Again did he see the weeping woman at the window and hear the man inside the house thunder in his ear the words, "You have come too late. He is dead!" Deeply moved, he hid his face in his hands to get rid of the horrible and bleeding form which, pale and admonishingly, rose up before his mind's eye.

"I did not wish to do that," he groaned, as the cold perspiration broke out upon his forehead and temples. "No, not that. Almighty, merciful Heaven! I have sinned, I know. But the blood—take the blood from me and from my soul. Help, help! Almighty powers, have pity on me! Do not desert me in my fearful need, but take his blood from off me! Yes, I have offended and sinned; but, oh! I did not do that; it was the Evil One who guided the ball! I will repent; I will become a better man, and always keep Thy commandments; only take his blood from off me, only let that one terrible shot not have taken place, and my hand shall wither in its socket if I ever touch a gun again in all my life!"

"That is what I call praying in good earnest," said a deep, serious voice suddenly. Helzig looked round quickly in dismay, and, with a deep, shill cry, fell flat upon his face, which he buried in the yellow leaves. He had cast only one glance upon the figure standing before him, but that was sufficient to enable him to recognise the face, deadly pale, of the murdered keeper, who, as he thought, had, not with a menacing, but with a melancholy expression of countenance, risen out of the earth before him.

"His ghost!" he shrieked; "his ghost, which claims from me his murdered body. Mercy! have mercy on me, if there is still mercy in Heaven!"

"Mercy is above," spake the voice again, in a solemn and almost agitated tone; "even for the sinner!"

"But not for me—not for me, on whom your blood rests!" shrieked the unhappy man, without daring to look up again at the horrible form of his victim. "Oh, merciful Heaven! When I shot the wretched woodgrouse I had no idea the devil would drag me thus further and further into perdition!"

"So, you were the young fellow, were you," said the voice, but in a far more human tone than before, while a heavy hand was laid upon Helzig's shoulder, "whom I caught the other morning in the wood, and marked on the ear? Actually, there is the mark!" he continued, pushing back the hair from off Helzig's ear, who was now gazing up towards him with staring eyes. "What else have you lying so heavily upon your conscience, my boy?"

"You live!" exclaimed Helzig, taking no notice by word or thought that he was discovered. "I have not, then, shot you with the—the wretched bullet—and yet—did not the other keeper in the house up yonder say, this morning, you were dead?"

"You must certainly be mad, my lad, if you fancy I am dead; and as for what you say about shooting some one, I do not understand it. You appear to me, however, to have something more upon your mind than an ordinary Christian can bear; and I shall have to see, it strikes me, that you receive your proper reward."

"Do with me what you like!" cried Helzig, springing up. "Inform against me! Imprison me! You are alive! I am a no murderer! There is no blood, save that of a wretched woodgrouse, upon my hands!"

"Although there is no need for anyone to call a head of game, and that of the highest class too, which he has shot, a wretched woodgrouse," observed the keeper, "it strikes me that you repent

what you have done, my boy; and, were I sure that you would keep the good resolutions which you have made this morning"—

"Mr. Keeper!" exclaimed the young man, scarcely able to believe his good fortune, and catching hold of his companion's hand, "Oh! if you would only not make me for ever unhappy!"

"Unhappy!" said the keeper, with a peculiar expression of melancholy quivered through his sunburnt, serious face; "it is a hard thing to be unhappy, and most men do not know that; they do not know how heavily the hand of God may fall upon them. Go, then, in His name. I will believe you this time, and I hope you will keep your word."

"Have you not yet laid the information, then?" exclaimed Helzig, his countenance lighting up with joy.

"No!" was the reply, "nor will I now! I was sorry enough for having marked you—perhaps I ought not to have done so—and this morning you happen to find me in a yielding frame of mind. But where do you come from?"

"From Hülzen."

"I thought so. That is the most confounded nest of poachers in the whole country. And did you come this morning from Hülzen?"

"Yes—to—to see why you did not come to the timber auction."

"Well, if you really believed you had shot me dead, that was a useless trip," said the keeper. "However, I do not yet understand the whole story, and you shall tell it me some other time. At present, run back and tell the gentlemen I beg they will not be angry with me for keeping them so long waiting. I will come over directly, and make my excuses in person. Inform them, however, that last night my youngest boy was taken ill with quinsy, and died, this morning. It was that which detained me."

"Then it was he who was dead?" exclaimed Helzig, listening with the greatest attention.

"God, who gave him to me, has taken him unto himself again. Praise be His name!" said the poor father, with a deep sigh, walking slowly back towards his house, without taking any further notice of the young man.

Helzig was still standing, as in a dream, rooted to the same spot, long after the keeper had left him. But when, however, the full consciousness of his good fortune had obtained possession of his mind—when he felt and comprehended how, as if with one blow, all his fearful anxiety, all his tortures, and the danger to which he had been exposed were shaken from him, and that he could once more look boldly up towards Heaven, the tears gushed in copious streams from his eyes, and yet he felt inclined to shout out aloud for very joy.

While descending the hill, he did not know himself again. With wild, mad springs, not caring for roads or paths, he ran down the steep declivities. "I am free!" he thought, with ecstasy; "I am no murderer! there is no blood on my hands! I am, once more, become a good man; I can once more look my mother in the face. Poaching! Satan shall hold the candle for me if I ever take a gun in my hand again!"

SCENE FROM "LARA."

OUR readers are already familiar with the plot of M. Maillart's opera, based as it is on "Lara" and on the poem to which "Lara" is a sequel. Our illustration represents the great scene of the third act, which opens with the discovery of Lara asleep in his chamber, watched by Kaled. The scene, opening, reveals a dream of the sleeper. We are transported to a manne cave, where Lara, under the name of Conrad, appears as chief of a band of pirates, with Kaled, as Gulnare, for his most intimate associate. The songs in praise of piratic joys, and an engagement, during which Conrad falls wounded into the arms of Gulnare, make the subject of a concerted piece; and it must be admitted that M. Maillart and Michael Carré have here very ingeniously suggested the connection between the two poems of Lord Byron, much as they have deviated from the original story of "Lara." The dream over, Kaled, confessing that he is Gulnare disguised, also avows that he has betrayed to Ezzelin the secret of Lara's past life; but the consideration that love is the cause of the transgression induces Lara to pardon the charming traitress. Meanwhile, the hour for the hostile meeting with Ezzelin has arrived, and Lambro brings Lara his father's sword, together with a casket containing the signet and title-deeds of the family. In this, also, is a document, in old Lara's hand, warning his son never to draw his sword in an unrighteous cause, and never to assert his name if he has committed any act by which it is dishonoured. A song expresses the intention of Lara to obey his father's mandate; and, with a change of scene we come to the last finale. Ezzelin, sword in hand, is awaiting the arrival of his antagonist on the seabeach, while all the other personages of the drama are assembled to witness the issue of the encounter. But when Lara appears, it is to confess that he is really an impostor—plain Conrad, the Corsair, and no Lara at all; and he retires from the Spanish coast, followed by general contumely. Two persons, however, accompany him in his retreat—Kaled, *alias* Gulnare, whose love is to compensate him for all that he has lost; and good old Lambro, who, with the keen eye of feudal instinct, has detected that the avowed and branded impostor is the Lara, notwithstanding.

SCENES OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE AND CHARACTER.
LABOUR OFFICE FOR SERVANTS.

OF all the evils to which Australia, especially Victoria, as a newly populated country, has been subjected, the greatest is undoubtedly that intolerable nuisance, servanthood. Before the gold discovery of 1851 the sexes were pretty well equalised; but directly the gold news spread abroad, and the large flow of emigration set in, the male sex began to predominate largely. Men who had left the old country in too indigent circumstances to think of marrying, directly they came into possession of wealth, so quickly and easily acquired, naturally looked for that domestic comfort which they could only hope to acquire in Australia—where society was, and is at the present time, in an unsettled state—by marrying, and thereby making a home for themselves. Private boarding-houses were very scarce and dear, and little or no attention was paid to the inmates' comfort, the only object of the proprietors, like most other people's at that period, being to make as much money as they could, and to take as little trouble about giving an equivalent as possible. There was, principally through this cause, a complete rush for wives (to use a colonial expression). The demand, of course, was supplied from all classes; the daughters and servants of the middle classes were marrying mad. Servants left their situations at an hour's notice to get married to men worth, in some instances, thousands of pounds, of whom they knew nothing. Few or no females arrived to supply the deficiency; consequently, people losing their servants found it impossible to get others in their stead. As a natural result, the rate of wages instantly rose in proportion to the demand for labour, which, like all other marketable commodities, rises and falls in value in accordance with the supply and demand. Thus, servants of all work, who had received £10 and £15 per annum, were freely offered £40 to £50, and cooks even £80 to £90; but still there came few applicants, the supply being only increased by a small number, who, attracted by the increase in wages, besides matrimonial notions, arrived from the neighbouring colonies.

Ladies, the wives of the largest merchants, &c., were obliged to do their own work, even of the most menial nature. Some few females, it is true, would occasionally apply; but then their appearance was of such a questionable description that ladies preferred doing their own work to having such people as inmates. At this crisis a remedy, bad as it was, to a certain extent was found. Caroline Chisholm, a lady who was well known, was deputed to proceed to England and offer free or assisted emigration to eligible young women desirous of proceeding to the new Golconda. We shall not enlarge too much on this topic for fear our readers should imagine we were exaggerating were we to give an account of scenes actually witnessed by us. The first instalment arrived about the beginning



SCENE FROM THE OPERA OF "LARA," AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.



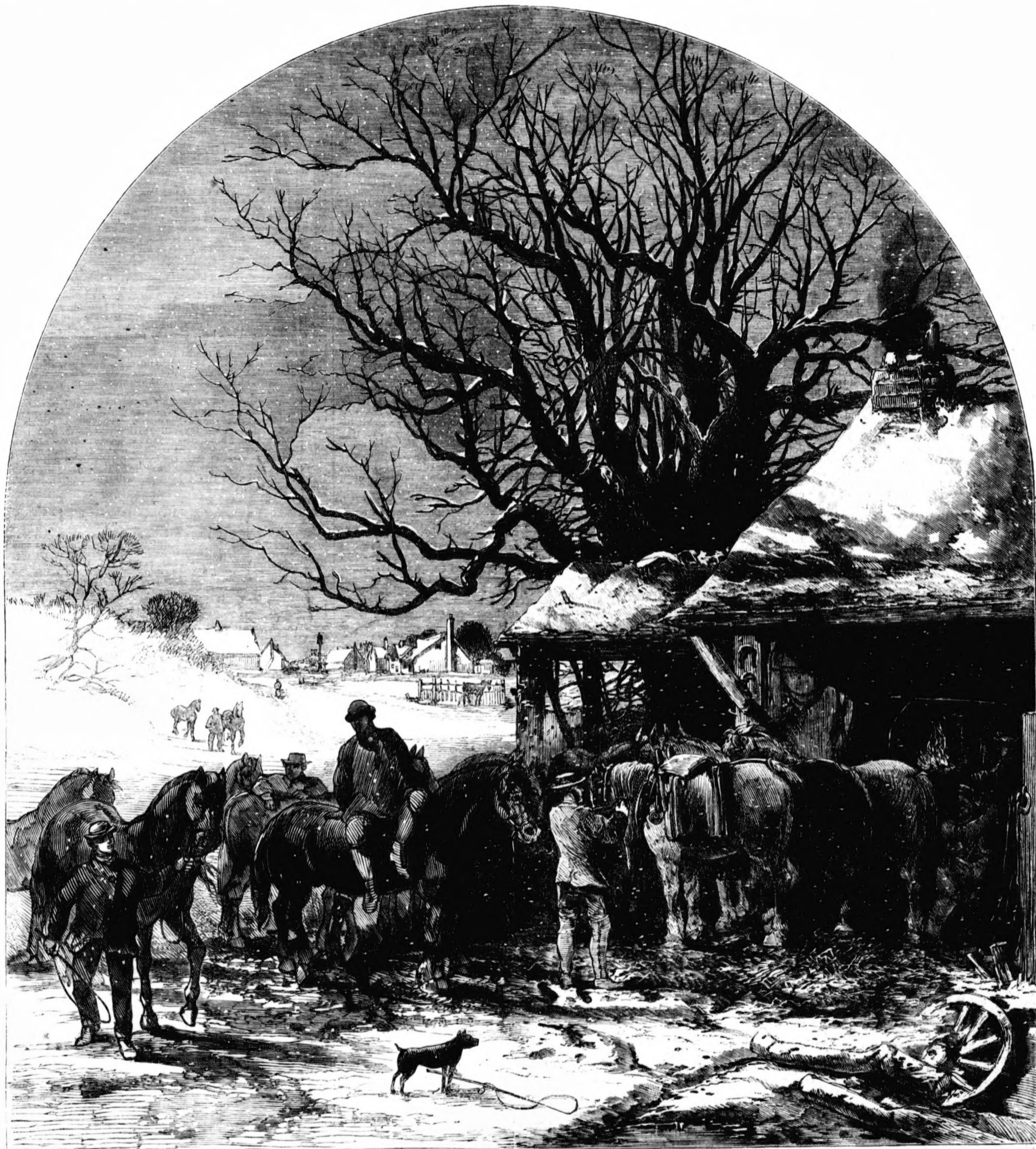
SCENES AND SKETCHES IN AUSTRALIA: THE LABOUR OFFICE.

of 1853; but, whether it was the fault of the females selected or the condition in which they found the colony, or from both causes combined, we can venture to say that there certainly never was such an importation sent to any country in the world.

Judging from their appearance and the manner in which they addressed ladies seeking their services, we should think the idea of emigrating for a menial purpose had never entered some of their heads. Matrimonial sentiments seemed to engross them wholly. They dressed in the most extravagant manner; and the easiest way then, and even now, in many instances, to distinguish servant from mistress, is by the style of dress worn by the former. The old saying is certainly verified in Australia—viz., that the servant is often better off than the master. In fact, society undergoes such revolutions, in Victoria especially, that it is the rule as much as the exception to find a man who was

once the employer become the employed. For instance, your servant leaves you and goes to the diggings, where, perhaps, he is very lucky; he starts in business, succeeds, and advertises for an assistant; while, on the other hand, his former employer goes into one of the many glittering-looking speculations, is perhaps unfortunate, and seeks employment in the house of his late servant. It is easily accounted for, when we remember that a man's rise or fall is always more rapid in a new colony than in an old and settled one, especially when the advantages of gold-digging is brought in favour of the new—at which occupation very rapid fortunes are often realised. We have heard and read some amusing anecdotes apropos to this. For instance, one of an old lieutenant in the army, who kept a public-house in Adelaide, telling a friend his former captain had behaved himself so well that he had promoted him to be his first or head waiter. Also of an individual riding up to some men who

were drinking outside an inn, remarking to them "Which of you will engage as my cook? and I will give him £40 per annum, besides good rations." "Will yez?" replied a son of Erin, "we are jist then, faith, in want of one ourselves, and will give yez £80." And, lastly, of a squatter who was deserted one morning by all his servants, the lot having gone off to the diggings. After no small amount of trouble, having set himself to rights again, and subdued his choler by an interval of a month or two, he experienced again the rising storm by encountering a detachment of his old servants returning to the station. As success was not always the case with those frequenting the diggings, the master naturally thought they had returned penitent, and, without giving them time to speak, he commenced, in a violent fit of passion, to reprove them for daring to leave him so suddenly and without giving him the slightest notice, concluding by telling them they



"WAITING TO BE ROUGHED."—(DRAWN BY A. SLADER.)

need not ask him for employment, as he would not have for servant anyone who had treated him so badly. After his indignation had somewhat subsided and he had pretty well cooled down, the astonished men were enabled to inform him that they had not returned to solicit employment, but in consequence of an announcement in the papers that his station was for sale, and added that they were in a position to buy it. This was beyond all reasonable endurance, and we must hope that the rising emotion of our pastoral friend prevented his hearing distinctly the entire purport of their offer, which went not only to buy the station, but to give himself a liberal allowance to continue the management under his new masters.

Finding the demand for servants, especially females, so much in excess of the supply, the Legislature and Government of Victoria judiciously represented to the Home authorities the advantage of devoting colonial funds as extensively as possible to the introduction of female colonists, the voluntary emigration into the colony consisting almost entirely of males. In a short time many hundreds of young girls arrived, but not half enough to satisfy the demand,

for directly they became aware of their real value in the market (commercially speaking) they aimed at something higher than a menial occupation, as it was only natural that they should, and at once cherished the hope, entertained mostly by all females, of becoming mistresses themselves. Consequently, though wages rose, and are still very high, servants prefer taking a short engagement at a lower rate than six or twelve months at the highest wages, for the clauses of the Master and Servants' Act in force in Victoria are very stringent respecting the breaking of any agreement by servant or employer. The fair damsels (using a colonial phrase) always commenced "to put on frills"—in English parlance, to put on unnecessary airs—and entertained inordinate ideas as to their own value and abilities.

Our engraving represents the engaging-room in the female portion of a Labour Office in Australia. These offices were established, upon the same principle as servants' institutions in England, as a more ready means of access between servants and employers, besides preventing the delay of advertising and having your house visited by an ineligible set of people.

Squatters and farmers, who come from the far interior with the intention of choosing a servant, are often taken completely by surprise on perceiving the class of young females from whom they expect to select a hard-working girl. The rustics may have been picturing to themselves the additional happiness it would give them to see their wives relieved from part of their labour in the dairy, &c., by procuring them assistance of a suitable character; but they find, generally speaking, that it has been an imaginary affair altogether. The farmer, on his arrival in Melbourne, finds himself in a large room, sometimes well furnished, where, standing and reclining in various positions of ease, he perceives, instead of the rough, plain individual of his fancy, various well and fashionably dressed females, some of whom will kindly condescend to notice his entry by a patronising sort of nod. He is beckoned over to a table or desk, where, seated, is generally an elderly female whom he will perhaps find holding a confidential conversation with a person, with a perfume sometimes like a pot of cheap pomatum about her.

This elderly lady is the proprietress of the labour-office, and

directly she is made aware of the wants of our rural friend, and before she pays him any further attention, she holds out her hand in a business-like manner, and demands five shillings for entering his name as an applicant for a servant. He pays accordingly, and when the antiquated female has entered his name, &c.—which process, by-the-by, she does not hurry over—she makes it known among the young women present. Then commences a regular fire of cross-examination, as to wages first of all, ability to perform the duties required of them being a secondary consideration. His success is various. One would accept the situation only she cannot come for ten days, as she is going to a picnic on Monday and to a wedding on Wednesday. As she may consider the particulars entertaining, she will perhaps garnish her refusal with a lively anecdote; for instance, the young lady who is going to be married was "nursed" at her last place, but has got hold of a rich gold-digger, or, in some instances, her employer's son. Of course, in some cases, the applicant will be successful in getting a servant as near to his fancy as circumstances will permit; but perhaps, after being cross-questioned by a dozen, he is informed by a young female who has made endless inquiries of him, some of which are of a most impertinent nature, and to whom he has made the last appeal—"That that there place hof yourn haint the kind I'm a looking for." With some such remark she will turn from our half-bewildered farmer, and continue the perusal of the *Newgate Calendar*, or any other description of light literature her fancy may have led her to procure. A lady friend of ours, the wife of a rich contractor, being in want of a cook, applied to a young woman at a labour-office, who coolly told her that there was only one thing prevented her taking the situation—viz., she was learning the varsoviana, and required to go out every Thursday night to practise. A. A. S.

HORSESHOES AND FARRIERS.

THERE was surely some meaning in the old superstition which regarded the horseshoe hung upon the wall or over the doorway as a protection against witchcraft and like evil influences. There are plenty of country places still where the shoe holds a place over barn door and house lintel. We have heard of a barrister who assigned a place in his chambers to a similar ornament, and at the stage door of at least one London theatre the iron charm hangs, brightly polished, the most cherished of all those properties which have been "lucky" to the manager.

There is something about the very trade of the smithy that seems to defy base and malignant powers of evil; the sturdy labour of the forge, the ruddy glow of the fire, the ringing music of the anvil seem, like sunlight and church bells, to put evil thoughts and malicious fancies to flight. The smith is symbolical of healthy work, and of all places in the village the forge by the old tree is the one bright spot where, even on the darkest night, a little knot of people are gathered, as though they found some happy influence in the place and might defy hideous dreams and night fears, witches, warlocks, and all the grim and terrible fancies which have belonged to uneasy souls in all ages and by whatever names they may have been called. Whether the seven nails, the crescent shape of the shoe itself, or the consecration of some old form of song chanted while it was hammered into shape, and having reference to the safety of the rider, was the origin of the use of the "cast" shoe as a lucky charm, is not easy to determine; but, at all events, in the days of hard riding and bad roads men's lives depended so much on the proper performance of the farrier's work that the horseshoe might well hold a prominent place in the popular estimation.

In London at the present day there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of men, women, and children who have never seen a horse shod, or made part of the select company looking in at the open door of the forge to "watch the burning sparks that fly like chaff from a threshing-floor." In the country, however, the smithy still holds its own; and in summer evenings, under the shade of the old tree where the gossips love to idle and watch other people at work, or in the winter gloaming, when the roar and brightness of the furnace seem to impart a sense of warmth, there are always two or three lookers on.

On the winter's mornings, too, when a sudden frost has set in and the snow is whirling over the fields, the farrier has a busy time of it; for then loose shoes must be looked to, and the boys have a bare-backed ride from the farm on the great carthorses, which are taken to be "roughed" before they can go on the shortest journey.

This "roughing," which is one of the most important duties of the farrier in country places directly the frost sets in, seems to be greatly neglected in London, if we are to judge from the efforts made by the distressed cattle to draw their burdens in the slippery streets.

During the present winter the sufferings of horses in the metropolis must have been terrible; and though, in some cases—rather than go to the expense of having the horses' shoes properly prepared—the omnibus proprietors have taken their vehicles off the roads, there have been hundreds of examples which demanded the attention of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and which rendered all the main thoroughfares dangerous.

It is true that the ordinary "roughing" by means of the rasp applied vigorously to the iron shoe is only effectual for a few hours, and that the metal is soon worn smooth by London stones; but there might surely be some contrivance for giving a firm foothold, either by shoes of a different construction or by some appliance which could be added in frosty weather.

Quite recently a letter appeared in one of the daily papers advocating the use of wedge-headed screws, inserted in a manner similar to that of the spikes in cricketing-shoes; and there are one or two inventions which from some cause or other have not met with general acceptance. "The Whole Art of Farriery," which, with the family Bible and the "County History," once formed the principal part of the country squire's library, has yet to be published in a new edition; but it is very doubtful whether the farriers themselves would adopt its recommendations, since, although there have been two or three volumes lately issued on the subject of "shoeing," there are still scores of horses lamed and tortured by careless and ignorant smiths, who have never properly learned this part of their trade.

In truth, before the farrier can properly adapt the horse's shoe, it is necessary that he should understand the structure of the horse's foot; and it is terrible to know what suffering is entailed on our cattle by ignorance of this subject. The hoof itself is but a horny case for the protection of the sensitive parts within, and is deepest at the toe, lower at the sides, or quarters, and shallowest at the heel. The position of the hoof in a perfectly formed foot is a slope of about forty-five degrees.

This horny case is composed of fibres running in such directions that the foot is capable of expansion when it reaches the ground in such a way that the bones of the foot may descend and prevent too great concussion. On the inside of the crust about 500 thin, narrow horny plates extend parallel to each other over every part, and not only combine the wall of the hoof and the sole but join similar plates connected with the foot bone, an arrangement which gives the wonderful strength and elasticity for which the foot of the animal is distinguished. The sole of the foot is an arched plate at the bottom of the hoof; and it is here that the skill of the farrier is needed to remove the accumulation of horn which is found to increase very rapidly and to increase the natural thickness of the sole, which should be about one sixth of an inch, except where it joins the bars, where it is much more solid. In a natural state the sole is slightly hollow, so that it has the capacity of descending with the weight of the horse. The "bars" are processes of the wall of the foot, forming arches which expand or contract the curve of the hoof according to the weight thrown upon the horny laminae; and it may readily be believed that "farriery" requires reformation when we mention that these portions of the hoof are frequently removed at the smithy at the time that the hoof itself is pared and trimmed.

The "frog" is that prominent triangular portion of the foot extending towards the toe, about two-thirds of the distance between

the toe and heel. It consists of two rounded or projecting surfaces, with a cleft between them, but uniting about halfway down the foot, and forming a wedge with the sharp point forwards, in order to give security to the tread of the horse and to assist in the expansion and contraction of the foot.

With this beautiful contrivance to deal with, it is lamentable to witness the gross carelessness and brutality often displayed by the farrier in shoeing a horse. Beginning by wrenching off the old shoe with the pincers, without just taking the trouble to raise the worn clencies, or carefully to extract the nail stumps, he frequently ends the operation by a misfit, which renders the animal lame, and ruins his action if not his general health.

The art of farriery, according to the best recent authorities, consists mainly in the care with which the sole is pared, the practice of making straight nail-holes in a well-fitting shoe, the limiting of the nail-holes to five—three on the outside and two on the inside—the proper cutting and sloping of the heels of the shoe, the turning up of a "clip" at the toe, and the accurate observation of the way in which the horse treads or wears his shoes, in order that a perfect fit may be obtained. It is also a good rule only to remove and refit one shoe at a time.

In short, if the farrier will but follow nature as closely as possible, and exert his art to protect and preserve the ordinary action of the foot, instead of supplementing it by clumsy contrivances, we may yet have fewer horses lamed, and, even in frosty weather, be spared some of the most painful sights now common in our streets.

Literature.

My Diary in America in the Midst of War. By GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA. Two volumes. Tinsley Brothers.

"America in the Midst of War" has been made known to all the world through the columns of a morning contemporary; but all the world must not imagine that the two handsome volumes just issued by Mr. Sala contain simply that which they have already seen. Much of the original writing remains, indeed; but much has been amended, and a goodly quantity now appears for the first time. Taken altogether, it may be looked upon as a new book, worthy of a broad and general survey quite distinguished from that usually bestowed upon sometimes hasty and ephemeral "correspondents' work. Everybody, however, will remember, from the mass of columns perused, such subjects as the presentation to the Lincolns at the White House, the wonderful chapter struck upon a box of matches, or New Year's Day in New York; together with many others which day by day delighted or astonished, or did both, besides conveying impressions altogether different in certain select circles which seem to think mere hostility in journalism as good a call upon public support as any other. The eight hundred pages before us are of the same kind—as lively, as graphic, as severe. The author was always moving about, and he has arranged his material in order that the effect should not be too erratic; whilst his well-known discursive powers are exercised to an extent which precludes all possibility of the least fatigue. The book is a good book, and certainly honest, though seldom amiable. It is the longest grumble on record. But it is annoying to be swindled ten times over in your very first cab. It is annoying to have a drunken colonel and a designing female stuck into the same vehicle—the first to hiccup out how he is going to be "fits (in reality something worse) on Cheesewright," the second to give a free-and-easy invitation which might or might not be to your advantage. It is annoying to receive silent contempt or an audible curse upon courteously asking a question. And it is annoying—down to the extreme length of a column, did we care to index the various perplexities which beset an English gentleman when trying to get a notion of America and the Americans in the midst of war. The effect is not pleasant, but this effect is not universal. There is much sociality of an admirable character—if you are "somebody" suffered to share it and rich enough to pay for it; and Mr. Sala most ungrudgingly testifies to the many happy days he has spent, and the many dear friends he has made, during his twelve months' run up and down the Northern States, Mexico, and Canada. But he is conscious of the side on which the balance falls. That pound of feathers will always let the sixteen ounces of lead down with a flop. And he is prepared for the result in the country which he has quitted, and has opened his book with a chapter called "Jusdificatory." To this the present attention will be principally confined. He is to be branded for being egotistic; but, he asks, should a healthy man be ashamed of owning that his book is himself, and especially when the book can scarcely help being so? Therefore he publishes himself by inches or by feet, by moments or by days; and, whatever the actual subject may chance to be, be sure that Mr. Sala is living in it, pervading it, giving it his own colouring according to the glasses which he wears. These glasses, he tells the "Intelligent American" (imaginary) to whom he addresses the chapter, are very seldom *coulour de rose*; as a rule, they are decidedly yellow, and a bilious, jaundiced tone is likely to cover the majority of things seen. But he intended to make his book the record of his personal experience, and he says:—"Had I thought it right to build my book on any other model, I should not have left a happy home, and an assured livelihood, and a host of kind hearts who had known me from my infancy, to knock about for twelve months and more in a strange land and a cruel climate, among strangers who hated me. I should have gone to the library of the British Museum, and, in due time, with the aid of Mr. Panizzi's shelves, produced two bulky octavos as modest as Mignon and as dull as ditch-water." Mr. Sala has steered clear of this. His "Diary" is as bold as Bayard and as animated as an aviary.

But the glasses—the lens that was *coulour d'orange* rather than *coulour de rose*. Here is a most terrible thing, and one which requires the utmost caution and suspicion from every reader, every politician. That age does not fulfil the promises of youth, and that the Reform pledges of Viscount Amberley of to-day may not be carried out by the Earl Russell of to-morrow, are things painfully familiar even to limited experience. To pass from opinion to opinion may not be a painful process, for all we know; but to have a political conviction smashed as egg by Nasmyth hammer—the smash, not the delicate and necessary fracture of the lime—is bitter indeed. As early as the fifteenth page of the first volume to very many people this actual bitterness comes:—

Why did I grumble? At what did I see cause to grumble? At these things, mainly:—

First: It is the common and notorious assertion of Americans that their government is the best in the world; that a pure democracy, such as they have established, secures to every man, without the slightest distinction of race, rank, fortune, or creed, the enjoyment of the fullest personal and political liberty; and that republican institutions have blessed the American people with such amount of aggregate and individual happiness as is unknown to those who are subject to the venal and effete monarchical rule prevailing in Europe.

I found, *per contra*, that the government of the Northern States—States utterly free from the influence of civil war—was practically a despotism, and that despotism arose not from any military exigencies, but from the deliberate conviction (expressed at the polling-booths) of a majority of the Northern States that the Constitution was a failure, that the doctrine of State Rights, which is the very backbone of the Constitution, was obsolete and impracticable, and that a "strong government" was the one thing needed, and that to make the government strong it was necessary to place supreme and illimitable power in the hands of one man.

Is this, then, an end to the Republic, or an end to the present Constitution of the Republic? We think the latter only. If it means no more than that, the many amiable enthusiasts who still cherish in their age the Republican dreams of their youth need not be too downcast. There is no symptom of a desire for change on the part of the people; and the only danger is that, under any circumstances, there must be a large and unoccupied army for which some conqueror—not the young Napoleon, he is too honest—might find work to do, deriving from it the well-known reward for himself. But at present there are no certainties, except that Mr. Lincoln has established an absolute despotism, and is well

supported by Mr. Seward and Mr. Stanton. Mr. Seward, Prime Minister, boasts that by merely touching a bell he could have any person arrested in any part of the Union and detained wheresoever and for as long a time as he pleases. And in these pages undeniable proof is given of this faculty being exercised—notably in the case of Don José de Arguelles—too long a case to be more than mentioned here.

Presuming that the contents of a work on the States must be tolerably well known, that some portions of Mr. Sala's diary have already been read, and that they may be taken as samples of the rest, it seems better here next to see what he has to say on the great subject supposed to be mainly involved in the war—slavery. The Southerners and their friends everywhere do not believe the Northerners on the subject, and it is only very lately that the Northerners have found out what they really do mean—if they mean it. But if they are fighting, not in the cause of slavery, but for the Union, then it is strange indeed: for, for many years past, several of the leading statesmen of the Northern States have advocated Northern secession, and have actually threatened the Southern States with it. Mr. Sala views the black precisely as Captain Burton viewed him, as was shown in this column lately. He is better off in the South, whipping included, than he is in the North, and nowhere so badly off as in his own country. And, moreover, the emancipation of all the blacks is not worth the loss of life and the long, long feud and bitterness to come between the still unhappier whites. Here is Mr. Sala's view of the peculiar institution, and of the more peculiar party, which is destroying it, not emancipating it:—

They told me when I came to America that the great heart of the country was set upon the destruction of slavery. Perish the Union, perish the country, perish every white man in it; but that eminently helpless dark-coloured person must be freed from the questionable oppression he has so long endured, and so contentedly suffered. He must have entire liberty—to do what? To dig trenches for the white engineer officer; or with his mangled body to make fascines and gabions for the white man's forts; or to wander about to pilfer, and starve and rot, as he is doing just now with great regularity and dispatch in a hundred places where he has been set free.

So the negro is to receive forthwith his gift of the white elephant—freedom. I wonder "what will he do with it." Sir Bulwer Lytton would be puzzled to answer the question. I met in Washington a lady, as loyal of course as she was accomplished, who told me that she once owned a female slave. The poor woman was about to become a mother. My informant—as it is the kindly custom of Southern ladies to do—busied herself in preparing for the advent of her bond-servant's infant. In good time she gave the slave money to purchase baby-linen. "Well, Peggy," she asked one day, "what did you buy?" The slave told her. She had bought a silk umbrella! Such was her notion of a *layette*. Were this a solitary instance, or one that I had heard at second-hand, I should be ashamed to quote it; but hundreds of witnesses could, if needful, be put into the box to prove how utterly childish and irresponsible the vast majority of these poor people are. From the old slaves who crawl about the houses of their owners, fed for nothing and not worked, saying and doing what they please, and sleeping with their feet so thrust into the embers on the hearth that they scorch their toe-nails off, to the little black brats smuggling like so many guinea-pigs about the floors of Southern houses; from these to the women who buy silk umbrellas instead of childbed linen, and who come roaring to their mistresses for remedies if they have a sore finger or a soft corn—who will only take medicine when they are sick from her hand—and who, as mothers, are so shamefully neglectful of and so wantonly cruel to their children, that the white ladies are often compelled to take the little ones away from their unnatural parents to preserve their lives—it is the same lamentable case of an inferior and impracticable race.

I have heard a story of a judge who addressed a poor wretch convicted of petty larceny in this fashion. "Prisoner, Providence has endowed you with health and strength, instead of which you go about the country stealing ducks." I had been fed with all these fine tales about "righteous war," "holy crusade," "regeneration of an oppressed race," and the rest of it, instead of which, I found the black man at the North a despised, derided, degraded, persecuted, maltreated outcast. I found that in the month of July, 1863, the mob of New York had been burning negro orphan asylums and hanging negroes to lamp-posts for the simple offence of being negroes. Instead of which, I found that a negro at the North was not permitted to compete with a white man in any lucrative or honourable walk of life, and that he was not even allowed to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. That, so far from keeping the meanest corner-grocery or ribbon-and-tape shop, he could not be a bar-keeper or serve in a drapery-store; that there were no negro carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, or bricklayer's labourer even; that he was not allowed to drive an engine, or stoke a furnace, or act as conductor to a horse-car. That if he entered one of those cars, or an omnibus, he was liable to be turned out neck and crop on the mere complaint of a delicately sensitive white person. That he was not admissible to the white man's church, to the white man's theatre, to the white man's concert-room or lecture-hall. Instead of which, I found him lurking in policy-shops—the pettiest of gambling-dens—or keeping the doors of faro-banks. I found that he, all nigger as he was, was not suffered to become a nigger minstrel, or at least to congregate with the high and mighty whites who blacked their faces for the delectation of the audiences at Wood's or Christie's. Instead of which, I heard the negro cursed and vilified on every side as the cause of the war and the only obstacle to peace. Instead of which, I have heard it said five hundred times by educated and intelligent American gentlemen that if the South would only come back to the Union they might keep their slaves in *secula seculorum*; that the genuine abolition party was still an insignificant minority of fanatical enthusiasts; and that if Republicans as well as Democrats were polled on the two questions, "Union with Slavery," or "Disunion without Slavery," the vast majority would be for the Union and the "Domestic Institution."

Drop we the page over the slaves of America. In all probability the subject will, literally, soon die out. With a step from the first chapter to the last, we come to "the ladies." Imagine a splendid dinner at Delmonico's! Captain Cheerful and Mr. Snarl, with two gentlemen asleep. The Captain proposes "The Ladies of America;" and Mr. Snarl, whose name only wants a final *er* to make up a certain imperfect rhyme, says, "By all means. I am sure there is no one who admires and respects them more than I do." Now, Tony Butler says that, whenever you want to say anything unpleasant, it is best to begin by praising, because then you have a right to detract. Mr. Snarl, after his first observation, reverses this. He is bitter enough, but evidently sincere; and then sweet enough, and evidently sincere. The remainder is almost paraphrase. The American young ladies are spoiled, petted, and pampered to absurdity. They are frequently rude and impertinent. They stare your lady companion out of countenance. They are never heard to thank a gentleman for those little courtesies rendered, the grateful recognition of which must be classed amongst the most cheerful amenities of life. In public they exact from strangers kind of slavish homage, and appear totally unconscious of a stranger's presence. They spend half their time in dressing; and half a dozen years since they ruined half their husbands. They learn to look in the glass as soon as they can lisp. They ogle at ten, intuitively write love-letters at thirteen, and are full-blown coquettes at fifteen. They are pretty girls, but unattractive women. Their intellects are precocious, and they are taught a goodly range of accomplishments at school; but they follow up their education with the most flimsy and trivial literature only (excepting Massachusetts! but New York is very bad!) They are clever, but not profound. They could write a novel or a leading article, and they abound with very fair second-rate poetry. They play and sing, but from their heads and hands, not from their hearts. They are cleanly and neat by eight in the morning; but a French girl has made them so, they being too lazy to dress themselves. They dance furiously, with ease and grace, but are bad walkers; and, in fine, "They are the most delightful and attractive little bodies I ever met; only they have been spoiled. But the war will cure them of a good many of their faults, and when they find that they are no longer surrounded by swarms of dandies and dandlers; when the hard time comes, and they have to put their shoulders to the wheel; then, I dare not doubt, they will approve themselves true and loyal, and loving women, whose sympathies and whose affections."—

Here, perhaps, Captain Cheerful thinks it is getting late, and Mr. Snarl hunts for his latch-key. The Diary is played out, and winds up in a kindly fashion, and creates the impression intended. A people "in the midst of war" may reasonably claim some little consideration; but Mr. Sala has made allowances whenever there was reason to think an aspect of society or affairs ephemeral. Politically, the book is well worthy of study; socially, it contains the most vigorous, amusing, and, above all, fearless sketches of that dangerous thing, American Society, that the press has ever

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